

*Region 1 Students Understand the Importance of Being a Leader*

WASHINGTON, DC - On June 4, 2006, thirty-four students from Edinburg, TX started the summer with high hopes and many ambitions for their futures. They successfully completed a week of rigorous training and left with a new sense of passion for politics.

The week started with an educational tour of Washington D.C. They had the opportunity to visit sites such as the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and the White House. They learned about each monument and the history of why it is there.

They also attended numerous workshops to enhance their public speaking, learn about financial responsibility and how to become leaders in their schools and communities.

The main objective of the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program is to provide a sense of empowerment and become effective leaders. The training encompasses teaching the values of de-

mocracy, building and refining leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.

Region 1 participants enjoyed a full day of training. During training, they were taught how government works and prepared them to address their members of Congress by creating an issues agenda. This agenda included issues that affect their local communities.

During the Congressional meetings, three groups of students were selected, by their peers, to represent the group and present their issues to Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, and staff members from Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison, and John Cornyn's office. Each group spoke passionately about the issues that are important to them, and learned more about the way Congress works. They left with the motivation to make a difference in their communities.

Student participation in this institute was made possible by the following chaperones:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Benilda L. Cervantes</i> | <i>Cris Lampos</i>         |
| <i>Elizabeth McSwain</i>    | <i>Cynthia Garza</i>       |
| <i>Karina Valdes</i>        | <i>Omar Valdes Cabrera</i> |



*Students presenting their issues agenda.*



*Students discuss their issues agenda with a legislative aid to Senator John Cornyn.*

**Congratulations Graduating Class — Region 1, Edinburg, TX**

- |                   |                    |                  |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Adriana Carillo   | Danielle Rodriguez | Jorge Murillo    | Maricuz Castellano |
| Adriana Lazos     | Dilsia Contreras   | Jose M. Rivas    | Marina Rodriguez   |
| Alba Serna        | Eliud Salinas      | Julia Hinojosa   | Maritza Morales    |
| Alex Silguero     | Elizabeth Pitones  | Kareen Gonzalez  | Marlene Cavazos    |
| Brenda Mireles    | Emmanuel Munguia   | Lizette Cisneros | Martin Garcia      |
| Claudia Hernandez | Isaac Olvera       | Lucas Rodriguez  | Porfirio Rivera    |
| Coreena Alvarado  | Ivette Davila      | Manuel Porraz    | Sergio Amador      |
| Cuahutemoc Solis  | Jacqueline de la O | Marco Manzo      | Steven Ozuna       |
| Tomas Benavidez   |                    |                  |                    |

June 4– June 10, 2006

## Issues Agenda: Class 149 - Edinburg, TX

*These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 149. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities and make their communities a better place.*



*Region 1 delegates with Congressman Ruben Hinojosa.*

We are students representing Region 1 in Southern Texas. We are here to present issues that affect the lives of students in the United States, in order to provide a brighter future. Here are our issues:

### Education

#### College Prep Courses/ Programs

College preparatory courses are being reduced drastically due to lack of funding

#### Grants/Scholarships

Grants are being cut down due to the current military spending.

### Technology

Schools should maintain updated technology to expand the tools needed for student success.

### Immigration

In order to avoid international offense, financial burden, and danger to those in our area we propose that Congress does not follow any legislation that supports the building of the fence and wall to separate the United States from Mexico.

We propose to Congress that instead of building a wall/fence there needs to be an increase in the number of personnel and effectiveness of the U.S. Custom, and Border Protection personnel. In addition, state of the art technology should be used to monitor the border.

We propose to Congress the issue of work and/or school permits to those illegal immigrants who speak English and have been in the United States for five years so they can help the economy and continue their education

We propose to Congress to find means of restricting illegal immigration.

### Economy

We propose to Congress that all individuals get paid higher wages. We need it because the current minimum wage has not been increased in years while prices of goods and services continue to increase.

We the people propose to Congress that minimum wages be raised nationally due to the fact that minimum wages have not kept up with the standard of living.

We truly believe that these proposals will benefit not only the constituency of Texas but also the nation as a whole.



We would like to thank you for spending time with us, from your busy schedule, to listen to our suggestions.