

*The Need for Change,
Migrant Youth Students
Express Their Concerns
to Congressional Leaders*

WASHINGTON, DC - On June 23, 2006, forty students from Stockton, CA successfully completed a leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The Bert Corona Leadership Institute's civic leadership program provided the students with the practical insight of their role in government.

The students of Region 23 were quick to realize that possessing the skills and know-how of civic participation is half the battle toward achieving change in a democratic society. The students were challenged and tested to enable them to accept the civic responsibilities that lie ahead.

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 democracy, building and refining leadership

skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.

Region 1 participants were able to learn the practical mechanics of public policy. They developed their own issues agenda and diligently prepared a persuasive argument for their proposals.

After their rigorous training sessions, the students met with members of the office of U. S. Representative Richard Pombo and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, and a surprise visit from Congressman Dennis Cardoza. Each meeting was a success, as each student took advantage of the opportunity to express their concerns that affect their local communities.

The students of Region 23 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that they must answer.

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

Mary Hopkins **Maria Ochoa**
Margarita Velasco **Esperanza Fuentes**



Delegates from Region 23 after presenting their issues agenda.



Senator Barbara Boxer of California, speaking with Region 23 delegates about their issues agenda.

Congratulations Graduating Class — Region 23, Stockton, CA

Lourdes Carbajal
Araceli Canela
Berta Hernandez
Luis Mendoza
Jaime Perez
Cecilia Acosta
Rosa Anna Gonzalez
Yesica Magdalena
Francisco Soto
Marciela Ayala

Gabriela Carillo
Jose Sanchez
Nohemi Almanza
Eduardo Badillo
Melissa Garibay
Diana Juarez
Maria Isabel Meza
Javier Pantoja
Cecilia Guillen
Jesus Gomez

Esmeralda Izazaga
Consuelo Calvillo
Yessenia Ledezman
Eliu Fuentes
Ogilvia Garcia
Christian Ramos
Maricela Anaya
Daniel Espinoza
Jacqueline Ochoa
Elizabeth Fernandez

Diego Garcia
Diego Gutierrez
Sandra Hernandez
Jocelyn Ruiz
Cristina Villanueva
Marco Martinez
Orlando Munoz
Angelica Salcedo
Angel Soto
Patricia Valdez

June 18– June 24, 2006

Issues Agenda: Class 151 - Stockton, California

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 151. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities and make their communities a better place.

We are students representing Migrant Region 23 and various cities in Northern California. We are here today to discuss issues that are affecting our community and we propose the following:

Immigration

Minutemen should be removed from the U.S. borders because they are using violence and racism to prevent illegal immigrants to enter the U.S. which is the job of the Border Patrol.

The National Guard should be removed from the U.S. borders because it is a waste of money that could be used in the war against terrorism.

Education

In order to reduce class sizes, we must build more schools and hire qualified teachers.

Financial aid; we need more financial aid for Latinos and other low income people. Resources should be reallocated from other initiatives such as the building of jails, the war in Iraq, and border security. This ensures that people have the opportunity for education which makes them better citizens.

Healthcare

We propose that Congress provide equal access to Medi-cal to all people regardless of their socio-economic status or race. Individuals with the ability to pay for medical expenses should not receive special treatment in detriment of those that need to do it through Medi-cal.

Drugs and Gangs

We propose drug testing in schools as one way to deter drug use.

We propose that law enforcement officers receive training so that they are better prepared to deal with the issue of drugs and gangs.

We propose vocational training for gang members as this will allow them to learn and develop skills to reintegrate into society and in turn decrease violence.

We thank you for the time you have taken to speak with us regarding the problems facing our community, our proposals, and solutions.



Delegates from Stockton, CA inside of the Hart Senate building after presenting their issues agenda.