

Stockton, CA Youth Leaders on Capitol Hill to Express their Issues engagement.

WASHINGTON, DC - The second group from Stockton, California carries the same ambition and thirst for success as the first. Region 23 once again has students that were receptive of the empowerment tools provided by the program.

The participants were quick to notice that this was an opportunity of a lifetime and became open to the experience that was only possible in Washington D.C. The delegates went through the different stages of the program with ease and dexterity. Therefore, they were able to find their new skill and how to apply them in real world situations.

From the beginning of the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program the main objective has been to provide empowerment and effective leadership to migrant communities. The training encompasses teaching the values of democracy, building and refining leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic

The training that the delegates received gave them the basic foundations for civic empowerment. The sessions included public speaking, policy making, presenting an issues agenda, and much more.

Wednesday, June 28, and Thursday, the 29th, were the days when the participants were put to the test of fire. The delegates met U. S. Representative Dennis Cardoza and members of staff from Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer's office. During these meetings, they were able to show the leader within, making the meeting a true success.

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 sponsors:

**Florence Fernandez
Alma Paez
Ana Patricia Rodriguez
Bertha Segura**



Delegates from Region 23 present their issues agenda to Natalie Price, a legislative aide to Senator Dianne Feinstein.



U.S. Representative Dennis Cardoza discusses the delegates' agenda on the steps of Capitol.

Congratulations Graduating Class — Region 23, Stockton, CA

Lisette Escamilla
Jeannette Hurtado
Osvaldo Mata
Yesenia Modesto
Raul Estrada
Rafael Ocegüera
Jose Diaz
Maria Mancilla
Jessica Lora
Maria Ceja

Yesenia Gonzalez
Jacqueline Guerrero
Jose Luna
Jose Ramirez
Salvador Valenzuela
Rosaura Mojica
Ruben Montanez
Jose Calderon
Marisol Navarro
Miguel Cerna

Laura Flores
Cesar Jauregui
Jesus Fernandez
Jacqueline Gutierrez
Jennifer Gutierrez
Antonio Ramirez
Luis Hernandez
Antonio De Jesus Jurado
Itzel Quintero
Xavier Vazquez

Juan Montoya
Elva Gonzalez
Patricia Hurtado
Saul Vidauri
Andres Pina
Ana Portillo
Naydee Rosette
Francisco Padilla
Claudia Padilla
Teresa Ochoa

June 25– July 1, 2006

Issues Agenda: Class 152 - Stockton, California

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 152. 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 presenting their issues agendas before a legislative aid from the office of the Honorable Barbara Boxer..