

San Jose Delegates Take More To Their Communities, "I Have Gained Not Only Knowledge, But Power!"

WASHINGTON, DC - On July 9, 2006, thirty students from San Jose, CA, arrived many for the first time to Washington D.C. They were full of expectations but at the same time not sure what to expect.

Nevertheless, the students became rapidly involved with the training and program. The delegates learned that this was a chance of a lifetime that most individuals never get an opportunity to experience.

The main objective of the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program is to provide empowerment and effective leadership. The training encompasses teaching the values of democracy, building and refining leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.

The delegates from Region 1 came into their training sessions ready to learn what

leadership, public speaking, government, and public policy are all about. What is more important for the delegates is that they learned how to apply these tools first hand.

After their training sessions, the students met with U. S. Representative Zoe Lofgren and staff members from the offices of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. The meetings with their representatives were truly a test that all of the delegates passed. Thanks to the students' willingness and dedication, their communities were very well represented at each Congressional meeting.

At the end, this is only the beginning for most of the delegates that come to Washington D.C. The real test starts when they return to their communities; where they will return as leaders that will push their communities ahead. The future is theirs and they have begun a voyage to improve themselves and the nation.

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

*Maria Trejo Frank Muro
Gerry Lopez Celen Zepeda*



Legislative aides from Senator Barbara Boxer's office discuss the issues agenda and answer questions from the students.



U.S. Congressman Solomon Ortiz speaks with delegates on the steps of the Capitol.

Congratulations Graduating Class — Region 1, San Jose, CA

Josue De Avila
Nactalye Vicencio
Martin Gonzales
Mirian Martinez
Geovani Sandoval
Sara Cruz
Damasio Zepeda
Playna Gonzalez

Mayra Ivett Torres
Alberto Rojas-Esquivel
Otilia Arreaga
Raymundo Pablo
Aida Cisneros
Christian Arriaga
Zoila Hernandez
Stephanie Davin

Cesar Martinez
Guillermina Juarez
Pedro Quintana
Maria Ceballos
Jorge Gamez
Janai Angel
Isaac Soto

Arelly Marquez
Josue Hernandez
Gabriela Hernandez
Natalie Morales
Maria Bermudez
Estefani Garcia
Maria Sombrerero

July 9– July 15, 2006

Issues Agenda: Class 153 - San Jose, CA

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 153. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities and make their communities a better place.



Region 1 Students at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

We are students representing Migrant Region 1 and several cities in California. We are here today to discuss issues that are affecting our community, and we propose the following:

Gangs and Crime

We propose to Congress that several steps be taken to prevent violence in our communities. Some of these steps can be the implementation of anger management classes as a vent for anger and violence. These classes should teach teenagers how to deal with peer pressure, stress, and other situations.

To solve the lack of police officers, we propose that police academies be advertised in the same way the armed forces are.

Since many crimes are committed as a result of lack of opportunities and constructive ways of spending time, we propose that more and better recreation centers be made available in our communities.

Immigration

We propose Congress to grant residence and possible citizenship to undocumented, deserving students who have a good grade point average and a good record.

We propose that the U.S.-Canada border be given the same consideration as the U.S.-Mexico border by the Department of Homeland Security.

Education

We have seen the deterioration of our schools and the decrease of learning tools such as books, computers, etc.

We propose that more school supplies be made available for schools and students and that more resources be allocated to ensure an excellent level of education for our youth.

We propose hiring more qualified teachers who will be motivated to teach and treat all students equally.

Gas prices

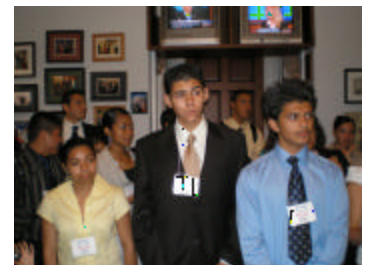
We propose to Congress to subsidize the cost of diesel for truck drivers in the industry of transportation of goods.

We propose Congress to promote better diplomatic relations with other countries that produce oil in order to minimize the possibility of another, more serious oil crisis.

We propose the support of oil drilling in Alaska that causes minimal damage to environment or protected areas.

We would also like to propose stronger support for alternative, cheaper sources of fuel that will allow the USA to become less oil-dependent in the long term.

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



Region 1 delegates presenting their issues agenda to Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren.