

*Young Leaders Represent  
Their Communities on  
Capitol Hill*

WASHINGTON, DC - On July 21, 2006, twenty young leaders from Bakersfield, 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 delegates from Bakersfield stormed in full of energy and enthusiasm about the week that awaited them in the Nation's Capital. This energy was showed all throughout the week with their willingness to absorb information.

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.

With the delegates from Region 21, the

objectives of the program were met with ease. The participants were able to learn the practical mechanics of public policy, government, and public speaking. They developed their own issues agenda and diligently prepared a persuasive argument for their proposals before their elected officials.

After their rigorous training sessions, the students met with members of the office of U. S. Representative Bill Thomas and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer. The students were prepared their agendas.

The students of Region 21 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:

**Roxi Romo**  
**Abraham Rivera**  
**Leticia Rodriguez**  
**Elvia Rosales**



*A long day of work on Capitol hill. The future representatives of tomorrow.*



*The leaders of yesterday and tomorrow.*

**Congratulations Graduating Class — Region 21, Bakersfield, CA**

Alejandro Villa Angulo  
Yasmin Abasolo  
Rogelip Avila Vasques  
Thalia Campos  
Jonathan Castillo

Rosa Cifuentes  
Jairo Cipres  
Daniel Diaz  
Irma Garcia-Gonzalez  
Fidel Gonzalez

Angela Iniguez  
Edgar Olea  
Berenice Ortiz  
Ana Victoria Perez  
Berenice Ortiz

Anasary Roslaes  
Christ Soriano  
Rosalia Rivas  
Cruz Herrera  
Armando Chavez

July 16– July 22, 2006

## Issues Agenda: Class 154 - Bakersfield, CA

*These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 154. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities and make their communities a better place.*

We are students representing Migrant Region 21 in California. We are here today to discuss issues that are affecting our community, and we propose the following:

### Gangs & Crime

We propose to Congress that several steps be taken to prevent violence in our communities. Some of these steps can be hiring more and better qualified police officers. This improved training should be not only psychological but also physical.

We would also like to propose that counseling and support be made available for young people in order to deal with peer pressure and problems at home. This will ensure that fewer kids become part of gangs and therefore criminals.

### Pollution

The areas we come from suffer from bad air, which in turn causes serious respiratory problems to people.

We propose to Congress legislation requiring that more cars and public transportation vehicles use natural gas. We feel there should also be incentives for companies and individuals that turn to natural gas.

We would also like to propose an ordinance that regulates the construction of new dairy farms.

### Latino Issues

We propose that more funds be made available to support programs for Hispanic students. These programs will allow them to continue in school and to have access to other educational opportunities.

We propose to Congress that more resources and better working conditions, such as health care, be made available for farm workers. This is especially important considering the harshness of their conditions.

Finally, we would like to propose to Congress not to support the construction of a wall around the U.S.-Mexican border, especially considering the high costs involved. These funds, instead, should be used for other, more pressing needs such as the education of young people.

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



*Bakersfield delegate at the Vietnam Memorial.*