

CLASS 155: Texas Interstate Region 13, 16, & 19 ESC

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

Training Week: July 16—July 22, 2006

August 9, 2006

TX-Interstate Voice Their Issues to Congressional Leaders For a Change

WASHINGTON, DC - On July 21, 2006, fifteen students from Elgin, Amarillo, and El Paso, TX completed their intensive week of training and left with a strong motivation to improve their communities as future leaders.

The idea about becoming a leader to some students was a little intimidating. With a strong team of teachers, TX-Interstate realized their potential rather quickly and felt very confident when it was time to present their issues agenda to Congressional leaders.

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.

After the tours, the students prepared for the module training. This day was filled

with rigorous training of power and politics and how Congress works. They were also required to create an issues agenda to prepare to present to their Congressman.

After their intensive training, TX-Interstate was prepared to meet with their Congressional leaders and ask questions that were important to know for their communities.

The meetings with Congressman Silvestre Reyes and staff members from the offices of Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and John Cornyn were extremely positive for the students. These meetings allowed them to address their Congressional members and listen to their responses on their issues. Congressman Reyes discussed each issue on the agenda and provided positive feedback to the students. He let the students know that he was working very hard for each of them. He encouraged them to continue their education and continue their ambitions to strive to be the best.

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

Claudia Andrade Amabeli Flores
Wendy Branstine Maria Saenz



Texas Interstate delegates on the steps of the Capitol.



Delegates with Senator Kay B. Hutchison

Congratulations Graduating Class — Regions 13, 16, & 19, TX-Interstate

Lisandra Cruz
Yadira Duque
Fermin Molina
Judith Velasquez

Carlos Mendoza
Juan Ruiz
Jaime Saenz
Karina Aguirre

Gustavo Ortiz
Linda Edith Fierro
Tania Munoz
Alex DeLeon

Diana Villegas
Alejandra Covarrubias
Eduardo Loera

July 16– July 22, 2006

Issues Agenda: Class 155 - Amarillo, Elgin, & El Paso, Texas

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 155. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities and make their communities a better place.

We are students representing Texas Migrant Interstate Program and various cities in Texas. We are here today to discuss issues that are affecting our communities and we propose the following:

Gas Prices

In order to decrease gas prices we propose that the government spend more money on research for alternate fuels and hybrid cars.

Global Warming

In order to reduce the depletion of the ozone layer and harmful use of pollutants, we propose more federal funding is directed towards research for alternative products that are safer for our environment.

Immigration

We propose that undocumented immigrants in this country are eligible for U.S. citizenship or a working permit when he/she proves they have a clean criminal record.

We urge Congress to pass the Immigration Reform Act which will allow undocumented workers in the country to have the right to vote among other rights.

We are against a wall that separates the U.S.-Mexico border. We believe it is not necessary and those funds can be put to better use such as renovated schools and other education matters.

Education

We are in support of the Dream Act so that immigrant students can have the financial aid needed for them to succeed in college and become citizens of this country.

We require more qualified teachers (bilingual, prepare students for college, more activities for students).

Youth Recreation centers should be increased in number and there should be more awareness about school activities.

Financial aid programs should be well-funded (scholarships, grants, other forms of support).

Schools should provide more support for teen mothers to continue their education.

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 Texas Interstate with Congressman Silvestre Reyes.