

Class 114: Today's Dreamers, Tomorrow's Leaders Share their Dreams on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 4 — If it is true what they say about a man's dreams being the index of his greatness, then this Experience In Democracy Leadership Program class has a lot to offer. These dreamers traveled many miles and learned the importance of speaking out and taking initiative.

A Class 114 student says, "the only reason why we can never accomplish anything or get ahead as young adults is due to the fact that we never speak out." A valuable lesson that describes the importance of democracy and leadership training. Class 114 found that by expressing their needs, and vocalizing the changes they want made, is the only way to make things work for them. Though they may be dreaming today it is evident that these young leaders are now better equipped to make changes in the future.

Helping to equip these youth, and a special treat to this program offering, BCLI Board Member Art Spurrell kicked-off the program week with a SUCCE\$\$ workshop, teaching on the importance of hard work and higher education. Another special program offering included

a Labor Workshop from a old time friend of Bert Corona, Rudy Arredondo. Rudy continues his efforts as a community activist, but focuses much of his time and energy as a freelance writer.

With their collaborative efforts, the Class 114 participants worked diligently to prepare their issues agenda, and readied themselves for their visits with their congressional representatives. Among their visits the group were given the opportunity to meet with Senator Bill Nelson (FL-Dem.), and listen to his position on the latest issues affecting our country at a Senatorial Breakfast Meeting. Though they were unable to present their issues to the Senator due to his schedule, they did get a chance to speak with Susie Perez, Bill Nelson's legislative aid on Education and Immigration, and address the concerns affecting their community.

Class 114 were also given the opportunity to meet with representatives from Senator Bob Graham's (FL-Dem.) and Congressman Dan Miller's (FI-Rep.) office. These meetings allowed the students to present their issues, voice their concerns, and gather feedback from the



Class 114 and Class 115 at the United States Department of Agriculture.

respected representatives' policy analysts. These key insider's were able to provide valuable insight on the representatives' reasoning behind their stand on the issues facing the United States, and those presented by Class 114.

We are proud to see young community leaders take pro-active steps in the improvement and betterment of their communities. The Experience In Democracy Leadership Program has always prided itself on the refinement of the same qualities that makes the participants of Class 114 leaders.

We are confident in the future accomplishments of Class 114, and look forward to their participation in future Experience in Democracy Leadership events.

Congratulations Class 114: "Today's Dreamers, Tomorrow's Leaders"

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| Yesenia Pacheco | Rogelio Garza | Olivia Gonzalez | Norma Erosa |
| Raquel Gonzalez | Jacob Macias | America Martinez | Conchita Delgado |
| Andres Berrones | Laraine Batista* | Godiva Garza* | |

* designates chaperone

Issues Agenda: Manatee County Florida



In preparation of their congressional visits, the students practice public speaking and presenting their issues in front of their peers (above).

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 114 to their congressional and local representatives:

I. Education

A. We ask for your support or continued support of programs and legislation that provide Non-US Citizens the opportunity to advance to higher education.

B. We propose for a federal standard to be set on the allocation of educational funding in Florida.

II. Health

A. We propose the farm-workers obtain better health insurance plans.

B. We support the endorsement of worker compensation claims.

III. Housing

A. Due to poor housing conditions, we propose legislation that requires state housing agencies to perform to random house inspections, to ensure better living conditions.



Lessons on local elections and politics from DC local Candidate Hector Rodriguez.

Did you know?

The Experience In Democracy Leadership Program week is specifically designed to the interests and the needs of the participating group. Its purpose is to provide leadership training through experiential learning in the political process. The program uses a cadre of qualified trainers involved in labor, congress, agencies and national organizational agencies. With extensive and diverse support, the EIDLDP guarantees an engaging and interactive program week.

Class 114 with Chaperones at the Smithsonian. (right)

