

EIDL P CLASS 116: PENNSYLVANIA MIGRANT Education Program

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The Training Week

Summer 2002

Class 116 Witnesses Government First Hand, and Takes an Opportunity to Learn More About Their Power as Citizens

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 17— The Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program sent representatives from many of its different migrant regions to experience democracy first hand, and witness the workings of government in action.

With one of the most diverse groups this year, the Pennsylvania delegates represented countries from Central America, South America, the Caribbean and South East Asia. Probably one of the many attributes that made this Experience In Democracy Leadership Program training week a great success. A higher level of diversity, and an increased level awareness not only helped the students recognize the strength in diversity; but also the strength in unity that is derived from it.

Among their strengths Class 116 was able to demonstrate new found skills in democracy leadership. As Alex Martinez from Lancaster, Pennsylvania writes, *"We (Class 116) learned how to discuss our issues by putting everybody's opinions together. We discussed the issues of our communities, and then we went to*

different congressmen of Pennsylvania to discuss the issues with them." Collaborating their efforts, Class 116 composed their issues agenda, and addressed their community concerns to their Congressmen and Senator by putting to use the skills they were helped to develop during their EIDL P training week.

Class 116 made several congressional and government agency visits. During their visits they met with representatives from the offices of Congressman Pat Toomey (PA-Rep.), Congressman Joseph Pitts (PA-Rep.), Congressman George W. Gekas (PA-Rep.), Senator Arlen Specter (PA-Rep.), and Senator Rick Santorum (PA-Rep.). During their government agency visit, Class 116 met with Lou Gallegos, Special Assistant Secretary for Administration and Gilbert Sandate, the Deputy Director of the Civil Rights Office at the United States Department of Agriculture. Each meeting gave the delegates from PA an opportunity to witness government first hand. They were given the opportunity to express their opinions and issues, and more



EIDL P Class 116 from PA at the BCLI Campus: A Home Away From Home.

importantly it reinforced in them the amazing power and ability they have as current and/or future citizens of the United States.

August 11th began a busy week of leadership and democracy training for these migrant youth from Pennsylvania. With their departure they take with them the necessary skills to become true leaders in tomorrow's world. On behalf of the Bert Corona Leadership Institute and the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program we wish Class 116 the best of luck on their future endeavors, and look forward to seeing them in future Experience in Democracy Leadership events.

Congratulations Class 116: "Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program"

Manuel Ibarra	Aanny Chimero	Enzo Gallo	Alex Martinez	Esdras Placencia
Gustavo Arroyo	Loretta Perna*	Miguel Carrillo	Edwin Tavarez	Joanna Plasencia
Francisco Martinez	Juan Rodriguez	Ha Vo	Horacio Rivera	

* designates chaperone

Issues Agenda: Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 116 to their congressional and local representatives:

I. Gang Violence

- A. We propose that more schools have extra curricular activities for kids to become more involved.
- B. We also ask for more police in the communities.

II. Education

- A. Because of the growth in population of Hispanics and other races we request that more bilingual teachers should be hired in school. They should get paid more.
- B. We also request to have more money to run ESL classes for adults who are interested in learning the language. We ask for this so they can help their kids with their education.

III. Drugs

- A. We propose an increase in drug rehabilitation programs.

IV. Racism

- A. We propose community outreach programs to encourage police officers to become “in touch” with minority groups, in an effort to avoid racism and racial profiling.

V. Arms

- A. We propose monthly check-ups to ensure that gun sellers do not sale to anyone who doesn't have a gun license.

VI. Immigrants

- A. We propose that undocumented immigrant students have the same rights to get financial aid and scholarships to attend college.

VII. Security

- A. We propose that people in Congress should provide more security to prevent gangs from destroying and damaging our community.

VIII. Undocumented workers

- A. We propose that undocumented workers should have the right to apply for a driver's license as well as insurance; this way they can ensure transportation to work.



Students developing agendas (above) A visit to the United States Department of Agriculture (below).



Did you know?

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute Campus was once home to President Warren G. Harding. The mansion, located in Northwest, Washington, DC, was built in the early 1800's and has served as a home to many prominent historical figures, organizations, and embassies, mainly attributed to its easy access to the White House and Downtown, DC. Today the mansion is *A Home Away From Home*, for all the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program participants.



Class 116 meets with congressional aids on legislation and education on Capitol Hill.