

# EIDLDP CLASS 112: San Joaquin County, California

## *Celebrating the Fourth in Our Nation's Capitol, wasn't a walk in the park for EIDLDP Class 112 delegates from San Joaquin County, California*

WASHINGTON, DC, Jul. 8 — Nothing spells out true Americana more than a hamburger and hotdog barbecue on the fourth of July. However this past week proved differently as immigrant and migrant delegates, from San Joaquin County, CA, practiced civic leadership as they gave proof of the true meaning of the American way of life.

Class 112 was tried by fire, and quickly learned that political power does not come from money, but rather from people. Patricia Campos, Legislative Representative of UNITE, AFL-CIO, provided the class' first seminar, "Power: Power in the Political Arena," and as always students found that there was a lot more to this program than just visiting Washington, DC, "I found Patricia Campos' topic the most helpful, because it made me realize I had a lot more to learn about my rights, and the power of my vote" - Class 112 participant.

This new found vision of what it is to be civically responsible gave the, at first

shy, Class 112 the confidence they needed to express their thoughts and concerns to the offices of their congressional representatives (please see issues agenda on page 2). Many of the issues they presented, and the concerns they addressed, unfortunately, are the harsh realities facing immigrant and migrant youth across the nation. The goal of Class 112 was to bring their concerns, and their hardships to the attention of their representatives in hopes of making a change. Their stay in Washington, DC was not just a visit, but a mission.

Well aware of their mission, a supporting friend of BCLI, Francisco Garcia, Director of Migrant Education at the US Department of Education, was able to take time from his busy schedule to let these students get their point across to the right people as they spoke to him about their concerns regarding Migrant Education.

Throughout the rest of their days in Washington, DC, these delegates from



*EIDLDP participants have the opportunity to visit many sights during their stay in Washington, DC. Class 112 students walk along the side of the Vietnam Memorial.*

San Joaquin County had the opportunity to visit many sites and visit with many people in the Nation's Capital, but they were also fortunate to witness this year's 4th of July festivities "DC style." It couldn't have gotten better for these Californian youths, than sitting at the base of the Washington Monument and overlooking the Lincoln Memorial, while watching the most spectacular fireworks show in the nation.

We look forward to the participation of Class 112 in the upcoming Experience In Democracy Leadership events. Until then, we thank you and good luck!

### **Congratulations Class 112: "UNIDOS CON PODER"**

Roberto Rosas	Nancy Avila	Marcela Diaz	Humberto Garibay	Claudia Aceves	Mayra Perez
Martha Orduna	Claudia Solis	Francisco Tenorio	Minerva Paniagua	Alma Sanchez	Jenny Garcia
Javier Mendoza	Sylvia Ferreira	Emmanuel Rios	Noe Cuellar	Estela Contreras	Ema Enriquez
Ericka Bracamontes	Maria Serrano	Martha Flores	Maribel Vargas	Envangelina Ochoa	Cesar Guzman
Gustavo Magana	Lupe Puga*	Jacinta Paniagua*	Roberto Aguilar*		

\* designates chaperone



Students developing agendas in preparation for their congressional visits (above). Students attentively listen as they learn about Power in the Political Arena (below).



## Did you know?

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute Campus is located off of Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC. Because of the campus' direct access to the White House (1600 Pennsylvania Ave.) till this day it is a desirable home to political figures, embassies, and organizations. The mansion is a great attraction to all who come visit, and known as *A Home Away From Home*, for all the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program participants.



The BCLI Campus is only five minutes away from the White House (above). Class 112 visit the home of the Presidents.

## Issues Agenda: San Joaquin County, CA

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 112 to their congressional and local representatives:

### I. EDUCATION

We propose an increase in educational funding for the following:

- A. Improved learning environments by requiring states to reduce class size.
- B. Increase Federal Funding for higher education.
- C. Better salary for qualified teachers.
- D. The creation of educational programs for the unemployed and homeless, where they are required to attend educational classes to be eligible to receive welfare.
- E. We further endorse programs that allow foreigners with professional degrees to practice their professions in the United States.

### II. LABOR

We advocate improvements in the following labor areas:

- A. We propose stronger support for the Department of Labor programs.
- B. We propose improved benefits and the provision of essential materials for agricultural workers.
- C. We propose a higher minimum wage to counteract inflation.
- D. We propose comfortable housing for agricultural workers.
- E. We propose a stricter penalty for those employers who abuse immigrant employees.
- F. We propose educational programs for the unemployed and homeless.

### III. IMMIGRATION

We propose the creation of new immigration programs.

- A. We propose the programs that lend immigrants the awareness of the benefits available to them.
- B. We propose additional beneficial such as insurance for immigrants and farm workers with or without documents.
- C. We propose a program that allows all immigrant high school students to receive residency documents and continue with their higher education such as the one Senator Peter Fitzgerald from Illinois and other senators support and introduced to congress this year.
- D. We support the amnesty programs that assist immigrants.