

# EIDLP CLASS 111: RIO GRANDE VALLEY, TEXAS Migrant Education Region I

## *Rio Grande Valley's Delegates, Class 111: Vision Latina, Shared Their Vision with Their Congressional Leaders*

WASHINGTON, DC, Jun. 10 — The halls of Capitol Hill resonated with the voices of young leaders looking for a change this past week, as representatives from the Rio Grande Valley Migrant Education Region I from Brownsville, McCallen, La Joya, and Weslaco made their way to Washington seeking an experience in democracy.

Their raw leadership talent was easily detected with this hand picked class from Texas. Each of the students were individually screened and selected from the Texas Migrant Region for their academic and extra curricular achievements and standings. However, the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program prides itself on the refinement of such talent.

The students of Class 111 successfully accomplished their first days in Washington, DC as they learned about their role in their communities, and the powerful strength behind their voice. But most importantly they collectively brought together concerns they had regarding their homes, families, and com-

munities. Soon enough, the practical knowledge of the theories they learned were going to be put to the test.

Meetings with the Congressmen Salomon Ortiz (TX-Dem.) and Ruben Hinojosa (TX-Dem.) proved that active citizenship is beneficial to those who use it. Class 111 quickly presented their issues, and favorable responses were provided by their representatives. Both congressmen demonstrated their knowledge of the needs of the migrant communities, and were able to point out their current working agendas on these particular issues. As quoted by a class 111 student, "knowing that they are going to do something about our issues makes me feel good."

Another empowering fact they learned with their meeting with Congressman Ortiz was the high achievements and capability of a migrant farmworkers. Ortiz, son of an immigrant, was born in Texas, but also a farmworker. His aspirations brought him to Washington, DC, and, Class 111 made quick note that anything in their sight was possible.

### **Congratulations Class 111: "Vision Latina"**

Daisy Garza	Monica Saldivar	Marah Garcia	Melissa Rodriguez	Ednita Ponce	Michelle Canchola
Ernesto Castillo	Estanislao Martinez	Clarissa Ruiz	Hector Huaracha	Paul de Los Santos	Ana Aguayo
Maritza Soto	Melissa Gonzalez	Maria Duron	Selene Chapa	Ruth Lopez	Alejandra Suarez
Faustino Villareal	Lidia Vergil	Irasema Valencia	Emma Monitel*	Jose Roel Flores*	Diana Reyna*

\* designates chaperone



*Class 111 and Congressman Ruben Hinojosa (TX-Dem.) on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.*

Vision Latina had great opportunities to meet with a number of DC insiders including representatives of migrant education from the Department of Education, and members from the Department of Agriculture.

We admired the vision of Class 111, and ask them to remember to always aim for the moon. We wish you the best of luck, Class 111, and we look forward to seeing you in future EIDLP events.



Students developing agendas (above) in preparation for their congressional visits (below).



## Did you know?

Since 1991, The Bert Corona Leadership Institute has graduated over 1000 participants from the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program. With a continually expanding network of alumni the Institutes continues to develop it's program and draw on their much needed support. The strength of this valued resource comes in various forms, such as: monetary donations, active participation in our program weeks, and continued participation in our adult and internship programs.



EIDLDP Class 113 learns a valuable lesson in the art of networking.

## Issues Agenda: Rio Grande Valley, TX Brownsville, McAllen, La Joya, & Weslaco

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 111 to their congressional and local representatives:

### I. EDUCATION

1. We propose more programs to inform citizens of their rights and responsibilities; we propose more for funding for civic education programs.
2. We propose to increase funding for migrant education to include programs for higher learning.
3. We propose to reform migrant education to become more uniform throughout the United States.

### II. LABOR: MIGRANT WORKERS

1. We propose to further facilitate and streamline the necessary measures and procedures to obtain work permits for undocumented immigrants.
2. We propose to add programs to increase job opportunities for all migrant workers in their home communities to include vocational rehabilitation.

### III. SOCIAL SERVICES

1. We propose to increase funding for health care programs (i.e. Children Health Insurance Plan (CHIP)).
2. We propose preventive education for issues facing adolescents:
  - A. Drinking and Driving
  - B. Pregnancy
  - C. Drugs Abuse (i.e. mental, physical and emotional).

