

CLASS 121: SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CA Adult Leaders Program - Migrant Parents

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The Training Week

May 2003

Experience In Democracy Leadership Program Sets Benchmark With First Migrant Parent Graduation

WASHINGTON, DC – MAY 20, 2003 – The Bert Corona Leadership Institute (BCLI) hosted its first-ever all migrant parent training week. The pioneering class of twenty-two participated in the Experience In Democracy’s Adult Leaders Program, a program modeled after the Institute’s flagship training course, the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program (EIDL). E. Francisco Lopez, BCLI President and CEO commented on the significance of this program week, “It’s a historic event for BCLI and the Migrant community. For the first time, migrant parents followed in the path of their children, many who have participated in the EIDL, and took advantage of the democracy leadership training being offered to also voice their concerns and strive for change on Capitol Hill.” The migrant parents, Experience In De-



Migrant parents meet with Dir. of Migrant Education, Francisco Garcia, at the U.S. Dept. of Education.

mocracy’s Class 121, came from San Joaquin County, CA representing San Joaquin County’s Migrant Education Program. They enthusiastically participated in the five-day program consisting of specialized training sessions designed to help them better understand the mechanics of public policy and become more active citizens and consumers in their communities. The customized program followed the same training regiment outlined by the Experience In Democracy Training Modules, defined as: 1) Power and Politics, 2) Understanding How Government Works For You, and 3) Developing and Communicating an Agenda. Class 121 was able to explore and define these modules through interactive workshops, seminars, and meetings with elected and government agency officials. As part of their training, Class 121 had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the offices of Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA), Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and members from the US Department of Education Office of Migrant Education and the AFL-CIO.

County noted, “They’re at the perfect level for the parents. I am sure this week had a great impact on them and they will in turn impact others.” The program also had its impact on the participants. In regards to his experience, Jesus Ortega wrote, “The time we spent here changed my life, I have acquired a new way of thinking about the political system in the United States and this experience will help me to better educate my children and to pass the message to other parents.” Such impact is the result of careful planning and the quality training experienced through the Experience In Democracy Programs. In addition, BCLI provides a unique training facet of conducting all instruction simultaneously in Spanish and English; a methodology used to ensure that no one is left out of the learning process.

BCLI is proud of the accomplishments of their participating migrant parents. Their efforts in Washington showed promise to the immigrant and migrant communities and their drive will help them overcome the injustices they face.



Migrant Parent addressing concerns to congressional legislative aids on immigration.

In respect to the training and the modules, Sonia Duffoo, Migrant Education Program Director for San Joaquin

Congratulations Class 121: “Unidos Nunca Seremos Vencidos”

Soledad Alvarado	Maria Zamora	Angeles Ortiz	Rosalia Ramirez*	Jesus Ortega	Sonia Duffoo*
David Santos	Antonia Medina	Prospero Macias	Maria Thompson*	Antonio Mejia	Maria Muro*
Veronica Banalez	Norma Liborio	Maria Verduzco	Felicitas Solorio	Leticia Gutierrez	Roberto Aguilar*
Maria Onate	Mario Liborio	Maria De Los Angeles Ochoa			

* Migrant Agency Staff Participants

Issues Agenda: Class 121 - San Joaquin County, CA

These issues, concerns and solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDLDP Class 121. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.

We are parents representing the Region 23 Migrant Program of San Joaquin County in California. We are here today to discuss issues that are affecting our community, and we propose the following:

Health Care

- Considering the large number of San Joaquin County families with no medical insurance and of low income, we propose for Congress to designate funding for a national medical insurance for all workers.
- We propose that Congress provide funding for free and low-cost clinics for farm workers of low income.
- We propose that congress provide funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention for farm workers.



Migrant parents and agency staff collaborate to identify issues affecting the migrant communities.

Immigration and Discrimination Against Immigrants

- Considering that working people in the United States provides for the national economy, its development and function, we ask that amnesty be given to all worker immigrants and that they be provided documentation.
- We propose hospitals, police departments and all government offices to provide for bilingual services, to prevent discrimination against non-English speakers.
- We propose, in an effort to advance the immigrant interests and reduce “hit-and-run” accidents, that Congress create laws, which ask states to provide driver licenses to immigrants without imposed restrictions other than passing state driving exams.

Labor

- We propose that Congress appropriates federal funding for programs to increase minimum wage and provide for health care programs for farm workers and their families.

We thank you for the time you have taken to speak with us regarding the problems facing our community, our proposals, and solutions.



Migrant Parents communicate their civic agenda to representatives from the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

Education

- We propose that no budget cuts are made for public education in the state of California. This has created a shortage of teachers in our states. In turn, we propose an increase in educational funding for more teachers so that No Child will be Left Behind.
- We ask for your support for the Dream Act and similar initiatives.
- We propose Congress to enforce education laws and to assure no appropriation cutbacks for necessary education funds used by the states, regions and districts. We propose less funding cut backs for the No Child Left Behind Act including migrant education.