

# CLASS 123: Texas Migrant Education Region I Mission, Santa Rosa, Santa Maria

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The Training Week

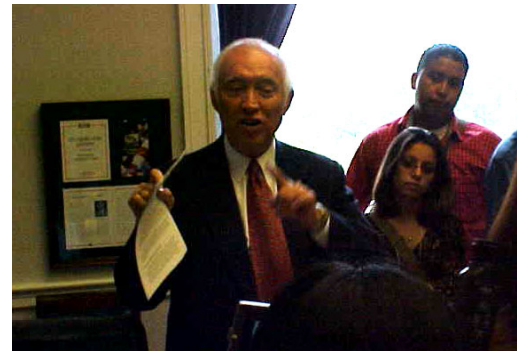
June 2003

## *In Search for Change, Migrant Youth Express Their Ideas to Capitol Hill Leaders*

WASHINGTON, DC, June 16 — Twenty-eight students from Mission, Santa Rosa, and Santa Maria in Texas, successfully completed their leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The Bert Corona Leadership Institute's customized hands-on civic leadership program provided the students with the prac-

tical insight of their role in government.

The students of Class 123 were quick to realize that possessing the skills and know-how of civic participation are half the battle. Like the many before them, these students were challenged and tested so to enable them to accept the civic responsibilities that lie ahead. This sense of empowerment is what the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program is all about. It comes from teaching the values of democracy, building and refining leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.



*Class 123 discuss their local community's concerns with the Honorable Solomon Ortiz (D-TX).*



*Class 123 meet with Ms. Nathalie Adams, Legislative Aid on Health and Education for the Honorable Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison.*

Class 123 participants were able to learn the practical mechanics of public policy as they partook in developing their own issues agenda and meeting with their congressional representatives and government agency officials.

Among the other notable meetings during their busy training week, Class 123 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representative Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), as well as with staff members from the office of

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). Each meeting was a success, as Class 123 took advantage of the opportunity to address their concerns before their congressional representatives (see "Issues Agendas", page 2).

The students of Class 123 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must answer.

### ***Congratulations Class 123: Texas Migrant Education Region I***

Faraón Garza	Aldo Guerrero	Gabriela Cruz	Thomas Villanueva
Bernardo Lozoya	Alejandro Garibay	Judy Garza	Aaron Rodriguez
Raul Villareal	Jerry Garcia	Ruby Zamaniego	Erasmus Briones
Ramon Morales	Gilberto Lopez	Elvira Villareal	Eleazar Ochoa
Marco Antonio Gomez	Patricia Alameda	Cristina Martinez	Crystal Gonzalez
Claudia Sandoval	Elvira Villareal	Cristina Becerril	Rebecca Cruz
Gabriela Gonzalez	Marissa Cruz	Axcitl Castillo *	Roce Vela
Olga Gómez *	Maria Eugenia Padrón *	Corazón Sibayan *	Carola Chapa *

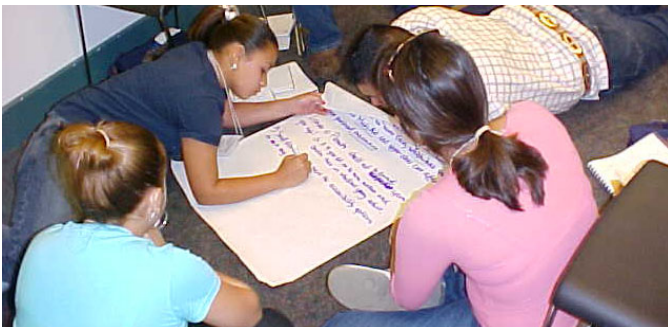
\* designates chaperone

## Issues Agenda: Class 123 – Texas Migrant Education Region I

These issues, concerns and solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDLDP Class 123. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.

### Salary Wages & Debt Relief

- We propose to Congress to raise minimum wages in consideration for hardworking individuals with family responsibilities.
- We propose to Congress to assist government agencies in lowering interest rates to help those in debt.



Students from Class 123 use experiential learning techniques to form a consensus on their concerns and speak with one voice.

### Medical Health

- We propose to the Congress to provide equal health care for all, rich or poor, and to provide special assistance for middle class families who do not receive the benefits of medic aid or have the capacity to spend on good insurance policies.

### Emergency Services & Disaster Relief

- We propose to Congress to provide for emergency services and police departments in every town across the nation.
- We propose to Congress that disaster relief loans be eliminated and converted to grants.

### Education

- We propose to Congress that there should be more money for school supplies in all public schools, especially poor school districts.
- We propose to Congress to provide school districts, large or small, with equal access to public libraries, community and social clubs, & recreational parks.

### Teenage Pregnancies & Welfare

- We propose to Congress to place limits on the welfare received by young and teenage mothers taking advantage of and abusing the welfare system.

### Immigration

- We propose to Congress to encourage states to provide undocumented people driver licenses to help make the roads safer for all.

### Equal Rights

- We propose to Congress to promote equal rights for all immigrants through federal funding and educational programs.



The Texas delegation experiences the EIDLDP's holistic learning setting, where they learn about other cultures and their histories. [pictured above: the Holocaust Museum, Washington, DC]

We thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to listen to our issues and concerns. Please respond to our issues and proposed solutions in a timely manner.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Class 127, Migrant Education Region 1, Texas