

# CLASS 126: SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CA

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

The Training Week

July 2003

## Learning the Importance of Civic Duty

WASHINGTON, DC, July 30— Twenty-six students graduated from the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program this past week, and one lesson stood out from all: the importance of civic responsibility.

The students of Class 126 was quick to realize that possessing the skills and know-how of civic participation in only 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



*The Honorable Dianne Feinstein (D-CA.) with student representatives from San Joaquin County, California at the Senator's Constituent Breakfast.*

engagement.

Class 126 was taught the meaning of power in politics. They were constantly reminded of the values of education for the future. They were guided to identify and harness their civic agenda, and then given the opportunity to voice their opinion and their concerns to the key Washington insiders that directly affect their communities.

The students met with members from the staffs of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Congressman Richard Pombo (R-CA); they also had the honor of meeting and speaking with Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Each meeting was a successful interaction, as Class 126 took advantage of the opportunity to address



*Class 126 students speaking with the legislative aides of Congressman Pombo (R-CA).*

their concerns on issues revolving immigration, education, the economy and more. They patiently listened and were sure to challenge the stance and positions their congressional representatives took regarding these issues.

The students from Class 126 showed much resolve in their new found dedication to make a change in their communities. They recognize the importance of civic responsibility as a call that all must

## EIDLDP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture



The Bert Corona Leadership Institute has a long-established relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA has provided great learning opportunities for EIDLDP students by lending them insight on services they offer for migrant farmworker families. The San Joaquin County, California students broke bread with various prominent Latino professionals and learned how to approach potential networking contacts. They also learned about the almost limitless career opportunities that the USDA has to offer.

## Congratulations Class 126!

Avelardo Acevedo	Juan J. Arteaga	Elizabeth Loaiza	Sonia Lemus	Guadalupe Flores
Claudia Arevalo	Ruth Rodriguez	Aneel Martinez	Sonia Acevedo	Araceli Alvarez
Adelaida Lopez	Priscilla Ambrocio	Angela Ayala	Erica Calderon	Annie Freitas *
Carla Manzo	Cecilia Espinoza	Irma Sanchez	Azucena Sandoval	Maria Luz Pacheco*
Andres Aguilar	Gabriela Vargas	Maria Martinez	Miguel Martinez	Mark Rice *
Alan Anguiano	Guadalupe Leon	Maria Marin	Angelica Tovar	* designates chaperone

## Issues Agenda: Class 126 - San Joaquin County, CA

*These issues, concerns, and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDLDP Class 126. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.*

We are 26 constitutes from San Joaquin County in California, representing the Migrant Education Program. The purpose why we are all gathered here today is to discuss the issues we face every day in our community.

part of their sentence.

### EDUCATION

- A. We propose that Congress allocate more funds for public school education. It is our belief that focus should be on young adults and on anything that will help teens to have a brighter future, from having smaller classes and better school facilities to having more after school programs.
- B. We propose that college tuition in California be more affordable.
- C. We propose that there be a way of validating foreign high school education, so that in order to have a high school diploma in the U.S., the student only has to take the required courses for a U.S. high-school diploma they didn't take in their country of origin.
- D. We propose that residency should be granted to foreign students in college, and that it be conditional on their completion of their college education.

### WELFARE

We propose that Congress review the availability of welfare for single mothers, in order to make it harder for people to take unfair advantage of the welfare system.

We thank you for taking a few moments from your valuable time, and listening to the concerns affecting our communities. We look forward to your response. Please forward all correspondence to the attention of Manuel Nuñez at the Office of Education in San Joaquin County, California; EIDLDP Class 126.

San Joaquin County Office of Education  
PO Box 213030  
Stockton, CA 95213-9030

### LABOR

We propose federal programs to create additional opportunities for adolescents that promote positive community environments (i.e., recreational centers and youth programs).



*Students of the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program create their issues agenda during a workshop on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.*

### PUBLIC WORKS

- A. We propose that construction in California's free-ways be re-established, in order to keep our roads safe and drivable, and to create jobs for construction workers.
- B. We propose that drivers' licenses be available to undocumented laborers. It is our opinion that laborers should only be required to show that they have low incomes and families to support, and that they have a place of employment that they need to get to, as well as pass the driving test.

### HOUSING

We propose to provide affordable housing and better housing codes, to ensure suitable living conditions in our community.

### CRIME PREVENTION

We propose that punishment for convicted rapists should be more severe and without parole, with psychiatric treatment as

### **WOW!**

You taught me how,  
To learn new things,  
I know now,  
What tomorrow brings.

Colors don't matter,  
Nor black, brown, or white,  
We will get splattered,  
If we choose wrong from right.

I learned how a bill  
Becomes a law,  
I have the will  
To help us all.

I will leave well,  
Because this moist day is hot,  
I have something to tell,  
Forget you all I will not!

Alan Anguiano  
EIDLDP Class 126  
July 31, 2003