

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

WASHINGTON, DC, August 8— Twenty-eight students from Westchester, Adams, Dauphin, Berks, and Lancaster Counties, all in Pennsylvania, and El Paso County 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 practical insight of their role in government.

The students of Class 127 were quick to



Class 127’s Pennsylvania students meet with Mr. Chris Bradish, Legislative Correspondent for the Honorable Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA).

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 127 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.

Class 127’s training week was highlighted by the visits of Migrant Education Directors Anna Lisa Banegas-Peña (TX) and Dr. Manuel Recio (PA). Both Migrant Program Directors

Among the other notable meetings during their busy training week, Class 127 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representatives Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), Joseph R. Pitts (R-PA), Tim Holden (D-PA), Todd R. Platts (R-PA), as well as with staff members from the offices of Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX



Class 127 students meet with Mr. Francisco García, Director of the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Migrant Education in Washington D.C.. The student delegates, comprising the best academic achievers of their respective schools, are proof positive of the successes of the Department of Education’s Migrant Education Program.

and Arlen Specter (R-PA). Each meeting was a success, as Class 127 took advantage of the opportunity to address their concerns before their congressional representatives (see “Issues Agendas”, page 2).

The students of Class 127 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must answer.

Congratulations Class 127, “Migrant Students Ready For the Future”!

Brenda Corral	Miguel Robles	Rebecca Hernandez	Marisela Gonzalez	Neyri Acuña
Janeth Villella	Roberto Tavaréz	David Avalos	Luis Avalos	Maria Porras *
Olga Hanices *	Angel S. Torres	Jonathan Garcia	Jose Juan Cornejo	Manuel A. Bautista
Ambar Muñoz	Yadira Hernandez	Annelys Chimeno	Maikel Aquino	Edith Johana Pardo
Ivan Nuñez	Oscar E. Muñoz	Juan A. Gonzalez	Maria Romero	Jose Juarez
Ramiro Garcia	Aldo Aviles	Quynh Ngo	Santhana Hem	Vadim Kevorkov
Jorge Perez-Rico *	Elizabeth Medina *	Stacey Dreyer *		<i>*designates chaperone</i>

Issues Agendas: Class 127, Texas & Pennsylvania Migrant Education Programs

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDLDP Class 127. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.

Pennsylvania

Education

1. We propose that more funding be allocated to our schools.
2. We propose that people be taught to be less discriminatory to people of other races, sexual preferences, ages, gender, and disabilities, in order for everyone to understand each other better.
3. We propose that more money be allocated for bilingual education. This would make education more available to more people, and it would lower the number of people who drop out of school because they aren't yet completely fluent in English.

Medical Insurance

1. We propose that government make health policy options available to people, regardless of the type of employment they may have (full time, part time, or unemployed).

Immigration

1. We propose that current immigrants in the U.S. be legalized.
2. We propose that the naturalization process be made easier for people coming in to the U.S. from other countries.

Nuclear Power

1. We propose that nuclear power plants be neither allowed nor created, because of the serious damage potential they present to communities.

Crime

1. We propose that more programs be created to educate people about the dangers of drug use.
2. We propose that more protection be offered to our communities by funding more law enforcement units and patrols.



Ambar Muñoz of the Pennsylvania delegation leads a group discussion.



Texas Delegation with Mr. Chad Herlin, Legislative Aid on Immigration for the Honorable Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX).

Texas

Lack of Water

1. We propose that a pipeline be built from places with surplus water to pipe water into the Southwest U.S., which is undergoing a water crisis.

Education

1. We propose that funding for schools be distributed equally among all

schools at the national level.

2. We propose that more money be spent on students than on prisoners.
3. We propose that more summer classes and tutoring programs be available in our area.

Medical Facilities

1. We propose that a 24-hour medical facility be opened in Dell City, Texas, since it is 2 hours away from the nearest hospital.

Immigration

1. We propose that there be more migrant programs available in colleges, to help immigrants afford higher education.
2. We propose that there be more jobs available to undocumented workers by lowering the 85% English speaking proficiency requirement for most jobs in our area.
3. We propose that all jobs be paid at least the current minimum wage, particularly by employers who are not required to pay their employees minimum wage.

Recreation

1. We propose that more recreational facilities be built in our community. This would give adolescents more options for entertainment than crime, sex, and drugs. This would also create jobs, including summer jobs for youth.
2. We propose that more money be allocated for counseling centers.