

CLASS 128: Region I Migrant Education Program San Francisco Bay Area, California

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

The Training Week

August 2003

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

WASHINGTON, DC, August 22— Twenty-eight students from the San Francisco Bay Area in California 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 128 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 128's Angel Rodriguez discusses community issues with the staff of the Honorable Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). The students, comprising the best academic achievers of their respective schools, are proof positive of the successes of the Department of Education's Migrant Education Program.



Class 128 students take the stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC as the spirit of gospel moves them.

Class 128 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 128 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representatives Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Barbara Lee (D-CA), as well as with the staff

of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Each meeting was a success, as Class 128 took advantage of the opportunity to address their concerns before their congressional representatives (see "Issues Agendas", page 2).

The students of Class 128 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must

Congratulations Class 128!

Yessenia Acosta
Luis Huerta
Marisa Bonilla
Jansen Arriaga
Lucia Lopez
Angelica Moreno
Oscar Lamas *

Angel Rodriguez
Blanca Torres
Ericka Ocampo
Bibiana Hernandez
Anazay Rivera
Aldo Reyes
Joan Singer *

Lucero Salazar
Sandra Campos-Orta
Melissa Alva
Lily Tapia
Maira Bermudez
Maria Trejo *

Ericka Rivas
Martin Medina
Lucy Garcia
Fausto Flores
Rosa Macias
Francisco Muro *
* denotes chaperone

Issues Agendas: Class 128, Region I Migrant Education Program, California

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDL P Class 128. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.



Class 128 work on their issues agendas and learn how to speak with one voice on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

We are students representing the Migrant Education Region I from California. We are here today to talk about the issues affecting our community, and we propose the following:

Housing

We propose that more homeless shelters be provided where homeless people could also work.
We propose that abandoned buildings (theaters, apartments, fields and other buildings) be rejuvenated to be used as homes.

Immigration

We propose that Congress stop letting terrorism keep immigrants from becoming American citizens. If terrorism is the reason preventing immigrants from becoming citizens, then there should be full and complete background checks for people applying for their citizenship.
Immigrants are not able to receive financial aid for education. If immigrants have to pay taxes, why shouldn't they receive federal grants and loans?
We propose that immigrants be allowed to have drivers' licenses, and that they only be required to pass the driver's test.
We propose that immigrants be granted social security numbers so they can work and buy houses.

Education

We propose that Latino history be taught in schools, since Latinos also form part of this country and its history.
We propose that more money be spent on schools instead of on the military.

Health Care

- People who work should have medical insurance, regardless of their legal status.

We thank you for your time in listening to our concerns.

EIDL P and the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Bibiana Hernandez of Class 128 addresses officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute has a long-established relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA has provided great learning opportunities for EIDL P students by lending them the insight on services they offer for migrant farmworker families. The Bay Area students learned about the almost limitless career opportunities that the USDA has to offer.