

CLASS 130: Migrant Education Program North Carolina

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

May 30—June 5, 2004

June 05, 2004

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

WASHINGTON, DC, June 05, 2004— Five students from North Carolina have successfully completed their leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The migrant youth represented Chatham, Henderson, Lee, Lenoir and Randolph counties. The Bert Corona Leadership Institute's customized hands-on civic leadership program provided the students with the practical insight of their role in government.



On the steps of Capital Hill

The students of Class 130 included Luis Arenas, Maria G. Hernandez, Daday Cardenas, Miriam Rico and Sonia Perez who 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 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.

The Class 130 participants from North Carolina 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 130 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representatives Congressmen Howard Coble (R-6th), and Congressman Charles



North Carolina students meeting with Congressman Coble on Capitol Hill

Taylor (R-11th), as well as with the staff of Senator John Edwards (D). Each meeting was a success, as Class 130 took advantage of the opportunity to address their concerns before their congressional representatives (see "Issues Agendas", page 2).

The students of Class 130 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must answer.

Congratulations Class 130

Chatham County	Luis Arenas
Henderson County	Maria G. Hernandez
Lee County	Daday Cardenas
Lenoir County	Miriam Rico
Randolph County	Sonia Perez
Migrant Education	*Roxanne Taylor

NC AIM Coordinator
* denotes chaperone

Issues Agendas: Class 130 North Carolina Migrant Education Program

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDL P Class 130 participants from North Carolina. Their purpose is to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.



Miriam Rico—Lenoir Co. and Luis Arenas—Chatham Co. work on their agenda to propose to their respective congressmen.

We are students representing the Migrant Education Program for the state of North Carolina. We are here today to talk about the issues affecting our community, and we propose the following:

Housing—We propose to Congress to require adequate housing, which is inspected with frequency according to housing standards for all migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Immigration—We propose that Congress assist states across the nation in regulating the requirements to receive a Driver's License. The privilege should be determined on ability to drive and not on legal status or country of origin. This would make the United States roads and highways much safer.

Health Care—We propose to Congress to provide free or reduced medical care to all low socio-economic populations in the United States. This includes the migrant and seasonal farmworker, the poor and the elderly.

Education -We propose to Congress to increase the funding and allocations that are distributed to states for their Limited English Proficient (LEP/ESL) Programs and Migrant Education Programs, to better serve the students with the most need. Many students in these programs are being left behind due to lack of funds.

We also propose that Congress support the DREAM Act when it is presented to them in the near future. Immigrant youth across the nation are meeting the standards and excelling in academics in high school, but are not able to further their post secondary education.

EIDL P and the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Students at the USDA with Francisco Garcia Director of Migrant Education U.S. Department of Education and David Strauss from Association of Farmworkers Opportunity Program (AFOP).

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.