

CLASS 130: Migrant Education Program Pennsylvania

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—
Two students from Pennsylvania have successfully completed their leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The migrant youth represented Chester and Philadelphia 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.

Maria Villalobos and Yismell Lopez both from Pennsylvania who were quick to realize that possessing the skills and



*Speaking with ONE VOICE
Maria Villalobos and Yismell Lopez work on their agenda to propose to their respective congressmen.*

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.

Other migrant students from the states of North Carolina and Indiana participated in the training week.

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 130 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 130 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representatives Congressman Joseph Pitts (R-16th).

These two young ladies also met with other congressional offices: the office of Congressman Solomon Ortiz (TX). 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).



Maria and Yismell meet with Congressman Ortiz from TX at his office.

Maria and Yismell showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that all must answer.



Delegates, BCLI Staff and FDIC officials posing for a photo after their Financial Literacy Workshop

Congratulations Class 130

Maria Villalobos

Yismell Lopez

Issues Agendas: Class 130 Pennsylvania Migrant Education Program

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions (as shown) were developed by EIDLDP Class 130 student participants from Pennsylvania. Their purpose is to make a difference in their community, and make their community a better place.



Maria Villalobos—Chester Co. at the US Department of Agriculture Meeting

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

Employment

We suggest that work permits should be given to illegal workers that work in farming and agriculture.

Employment

We propose that health insurance should be given to farm workers. Farm workers produce the products that feed America. And therefore we need to ensure they are healthy enough to do their job.

We suggest that farm workers and agriculture workers should get paid a higher salary, because they have the hardest job in the country.

Education

We propose to increase the numbers of bilingual teachers.

Employment

suggest that awareness programs be implemented in school so that young people can be more exposed to the diversity of this country and the world. This will make them more open minded towards other races and cultures

Racism

We suggest that awareness programs be implemented in school so that young people can be more exposed to the diversity of this country and the world. This will make them more open minded towards other races and cultures

We thank you for the time you have taken to speak with us regarding the problems facing our community.

EIDLDP and the U.S. Department of Agriculture



Francisco Garcia Director of Migrant Education Program, U.S. Department of Education speaks to Class 130 about the importance of being a leader

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 EIDLDP students by lending them the insight on services they offer for migrant farmworker families. The Pennsylvania students learned about the almost limitless career opportunities that the USDA has to offer.