

CLASS 134: El Paso, TX Migrant Education Programs Region 19

Experience in Democracy Leadership Program

Training Week: July 03—July 09, 2004

July 10, 2004

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

WASHINGTON, DC, On July 09, 2004, twenty-eight students from El Paso Texas, successfully completed a leadership training week with definite plans to make change in their local communities. The Bert Corona Leadership Institute's civic leadership program provided the students with the practical insight of their role in government.

The students of Class 134 were quick to realize that possessing the skills and know how of civic participation is half the battle toward achieving change in a democratic society. The students were challenged and tested to enable them to accept the civic responsibilities that lie ahead.

The main objective of the Experience In Democracy Leadership Program is to provide a sense of empowerment and become effective leaders. The training encompasses teaching the values of democracy, building and refining

leadership skills, and entrusting them with the duty of civic engagement.

Class 134 participants were able to learn the practical mechanics of public policy. They developed their own issues agenda and diligently prepared a persuasive argument for their proposals.

After their rigorous training sessions, Class 134 met with members of the offices of U. S. Representatives Silvestre Reyes and Senators Kay Bailey Hutchinson and John Cornyn. Each meeting was a success, as Class 134 took advantage of the opportunity to implement their newly acquired skills.

The students of Class 134 showed much resolve in their newfound dedication to make a difference. They recognize civic responsibility as a call that they must answer.

Student participation in this institute was made possible by the following sponsors:

Jennifer Alonzo— Region 19

Amelda Hermosillo— Region 19

Anna Yarza— Canutillo ISD

Jose Luis Olivas— Region 19

Martha Rivera— Region 19, Director



Congratulations Graduating Class 134

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Alfredo Castillo
Jennifer Gonzalez

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Issues Agendas: Class 134 EL PASO, TEXAS

These issues, concerns and proposed solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 134. Their purpose is to make a difference in their community and make their community a better place.

We are students representing the Migrant Education Program Region 19 in El Paso, Texas and we propose the following:

Education

- We are deeply concerned about our schools. There are a low percentage of qualified teachers. We also do not have enough funds to support our schools; some schools do not have an open space outside, like a park or football field. In order to get a good education we need recreational activities with our academics.
- Students are dropping out because they cannot pay for summer school. Students are charged a fee for air conditioner costs, lunch water, and other expenses. To reduce the drop out rate we would like more schools in our communities, because students have to travel very far to go to school due to over crowdedness in local areas schools. Also students are dropping out because they are falling behind because all the bilingual classes are Spanish only, we should be able to practice more English so that we are in the right grade.

Medical Health Care

- We have few hospitals and little equipment. A lot of people are dying in emergency rooms because there is not enough doctors, hospitals buildings, and nurses. Doctors and nurses lack the knowledge to help patients. There is a high rate of AIDS in our community and the hospitals are not prepared to care for them.

We propose the Congress to provide medical insurance to all immigrants.

Environment

- Cars are the best to way to travel in our communities and there are no concrete roads the towns around El Paso. These roads are damaging the cars, wasting time and gasoline. During heavy rains our dirt roads and towns get flooded making it hard for cars to travel.
- We propose to Congress to build more international bridges so there is less traffic from Mexico to El Paso.
- There is also an intense drought problem that affects our crops and drinking water.



Congressman Mr. Silvestre Reyes (TX) meets with Class 134 from El Paso, TX.

Unemployment

- Many people are unemployed because companies are leaving our communities. We propose to Congress t provide more jobs and better salaries. People are spending their wages on traveling to and from their jobs. People should be hired to build more roads and to clean up trash and parks.

Drugs

- There is a lot of under age drinking because there are not enough drug prevention programs. We need more funds for rehab centers and prevention programs so that more people become aware of the dangers of drugs.