

EIDLDP CLASS 109: San Joaquin County, CA Migrant Education Program

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The Training Week

Spring 2002

“There are ways to fight for our rights. There are people who....fight for our voice....”
The powerful message learned by Class 109

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 11—Participants made it through the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program once again this past week as visitors from San Joaquin County took the opportunity to witness first hand what it means to live in a democracy.

They learned many lessons during the training week, but one lesson in particular stood out of for the delegates from class 109. Jose Razo, youth delegate from Lodi High School, addressed what he learned about helping his community, “People have rights in this country. I learned that Hispanic people have the same rights as an American person, all they have to do is organize so they can be heard. I could use this experience in Democracy (Leadership) by telling my community to get organized, and present our problems to Congress.”

Through the many program components, such as congressional and government agency visits, civic seminars and workshops, the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program made these indi-

viduals understand the importance of civic involvement and civic responsibility. They learned as Esmeralda Garcia, delegate from Liberty High School, states, “...there are ways to fight for our rights. There are people who are trying to fight for our voice, and (we) have a future, and (we) make the difference in (our community and) lives.”

Among the previously mentioned program components, other components included visits with the congressional offices of Senator Barbara Boxer (CA-Dem.), Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA-Dem.), Congressman Richard Pombo (CA-Rep.), visits to Washington, DC’s historical sites and monuments. In addition, they also were welcomed to a networking reception at the Mott House on Capitol Hill with special guest speakers Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-Dem.), Congresswoman Hilda Solis (CA-Dem.), Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-Dem.), Secretary Andrew Cuomo (Housing and Urban Development), and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA-Dem.)



Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-Dem.) speaks to EIDLDP delegates at a Congressional Reception.

In all it was a very active week for Class 109. Their willingness to learn and energy helped make it an exciting week for the delegates, chaperones, and all those who help make the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program possible.

Thank you, San Joaquin County and Class 109, for your participation. We continue to look forward to your future support and participation in the Experience and Democracy Leadership Program and special Bert Corona Leadership Institute events.

Congratulations Class 109: “Juventud Latina en Desarrollo y Poder”

Daisy Bravo	Maria Madariaga	Miguel Luna	Leonardo Verduzco	Andrez Alvarez
Alberto Monzon	Nancy Huante	Guadalupe Archundia	Griselda Contreras	Gabriel Anaya
Jose Razo	Cecilia Alvarez	Laura Real	Dolores Melendrez	Maria Hernandez
Esmeralda Garcia	Jesus Margarito	Maricela Cazares	Jose Zapata	Melody Ramirez
Manuel Nuñez *	Gabriela Tirado*			

* designates chaperone

Issues Agenda: Class 109 San Joaquin County, CA

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 109 to their congressional and local representatives:



Class 109 Delegates sing with musical guests at the network reception (above).

Did you know?

One of the objectives of the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program is to assist students to work in team settings and overcome differences. These efforts are accomplished through many means, including the practice of support building through group activities, lessons in networking, public speaking, and the buddy system.



Class 109 in front of their Home Away From Home, at the BCLI Campus.

I. IMMIGRATION

1. We propose safety measures to protect migrant, immigrant, and undocumented students from being deported in any school within the United States.
2. We support Amnesty for undocumented migrants and immigrants working in the United States.
3. We also propose that the State of California issue Drivers License for those who are in the process of residency (at least three years in the process.)

II. TAXES

1. We propose that congress must reduce high taxes for low-income families. Why should upper class gain more on taxes than low income and working class families?

III. EDUCATION

1. We propose more bilingual teachers to help students succeed in transition.
2. We propose a reduce class size and increase student attention.
3. We support HR 1918, The Student Adjustment Act that proposes the adjustment of undocumented students who have been in this country for 5 years.
4. We also propose that congress allocate money to the states for financial aid to all students including the undocumented that desire to go to college.
5. We propose that the Department of Education intensify the curriculum to prepare all students for the SAT 9 test.

IV. LABOR

1. We propose an increase of the minimum wage to all farm and field workers in the United States.
2. We propose to congress that grants should be allocated for health insurance for farm and field workers including their families.
3. We propose safety regulations on all fields where farmworkers handle high toxic chemicals with no protection.