

*WE NEED TO GET INVOLVED
IN OUR GOVERNMENT!*

Delegates Learn They Can Make a Difference

WASHINGTON, DC, Apr. 15 — Often times we hear the old cliché that seeing is believing. By experiencing are we then completely convinced? Migrant youth from San Joaquin County thought so. An exciting opportunity was given to these migrant youth as they witnessed first hand how democracy works in America.

For several years the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program has given migrant youth and adults the opportunity to take control and make a difference in the system under which they live. It involves empowering the participants and helping them realize that regardless of their status in their country, rich or poor, legal resident or illegal immigrant, they have the rights and the power to make the necessary changes they need for their communities.

Claribel Soto gave a clear explanation of the lessons she learned during her visit to Washington, she began by saying that, “(Migrant youth) need to get involved in our government and do something about

our community...” she continued to further explain that migrants have the power to make a change, but it was up to them to get involved. This realization of being able to make a difference came from the scheduled events provided to the student of Class 110 during their training week.

Upon their welcoming the students were introduced to the Nations Capitol, and were taught the values of networking and team building. The beginning of the week focused it’s efforts on helping the students understand their role in the legislative process, but also where true power comes from, and how they can find it.

After the first couple of days of learning the ropes, delegates of Class 110 found themselves communicating their community and individual issues and concerns during their meetings with Senator Barbara Boxer (CA-Dem.), the offices of Congressman Richard Pombo (CA-Rep.) and Congresswoman (Hilda Solis (CA-Dem.)). Other encounters included a visit



Class 110 delegates met with Francisco Garcia, Director of Migrant Education, during their visit to the US Department of Education.

with Francisco Garcia, Director of Migrant Education at the US Department of Education, and Alicia Fernandez-Mott, Director of the Division Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs at the US Department of Labor. The students were also given the opportunity to meet additional members of the DC community during their sessions with the Mexican Embassy and at the Oyster School, the first bilingual school in Washington, DC.

It truly was an eventful week for Class 110. We hope that they continue to use the lessons they learned to make a difference in their communities. We wish you the best of luck, and look forward to your participation in future BCLI events.

Congratulations Class 110: “Leaving Trends Together”

Gicel Beas	Daniela Gonzalez	Gabriela Campos	Refugio Gomez	Eliana Canela	Raul Mora*
Liliana Bobadilla	Raquel Albor	Ricardo Aceves	Silvia Montanez	Ernesto Garibay	Hilda Diaz-Rice*
Tanya Diaz	Maribel Rosendo	Raquel Serrano	Raul Espinoza	Maria E. Venegas	Carlos Lopez*
Jesemanit Espinoza	Blanca Ruelas	Maria Ramos	San Juana Martinez	Claribel Soto	
Israel Villavicencio	Tanya Santillan	Tania Castaneda	Belen Flores	Yerania Miranda	

* designates chaperone



Delegates meet with members of the Mexican Embassy (above). Class 110 have a casual meeting with Congressman Richard Pombo (CA-Dem.) on the steps of the US Capitol.



Did you know?

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute uses local leaders and organizations to make the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program and unforgettable experience for migrant youth and adults. The Institute works with a cadre of professionals individuals, professional groups, local and national organizations, and a number of government agencies in the DC metro area. Their participation and support of the EIDLDP makes it possible to provide for a quality learning environment.



A community visit to the Oyster School, the first Bilingual School in Washington, DC.

Issues Agenda: Class 110 San Joaquin County, CA

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 110 to their congressional and local representatives:

I. IMMIGRATION

1. We support Amnesty for undocumented migrants and immigrants working in the United States.

II. EDUCATION

1. We also propose alternatives to Social Security number such as tax identification for those students with undocumented status to be able to apply for Drivers License and Financial Aid.
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 allocate more funding for more bilingual programs to prepare more bilingual teachers to help students succeed in transition.

III. 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.

IV. TAXES

1. We propose that congress must reduce high taxes for low-income families.
2. We propose that congress ensure that the use taxes are equally distributed for educational programs.

V. CRIME

1. We propose that congress must take strong measures to enforce crime control measures to prevent crimes in our communities.