

EIDLDP CLASS 117: El Paso Migrant Education Program Region XIX

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The Training Week

Summer 2002

Migrant Adult Staffers looks forward to sharing what they've learned and taking their "Experience in Democracy Leadership" home to Texas

WASHINGTON, DC, May 27—"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand." Confucius made many interesting observations throughout his days, and nothing has proved more true regarding learning and education, than this particular observation made in 500 B.C. The application of hands-on, experiential learning was seen alive and well this past week as Migrant Program staff members, from Region XIX in Texas, made their way through Washington, D.C. to *understand* democracy leadership and making a change for their migrant and immigrant constituents back home.

Over and over again the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program has proved to be a great asset for migrant program staff members. This Adult Leaders Training Week proved no different. This past week BCLI offered the Adult Leaders program participants a better understanding of democracy and community advocacy. They gained a renewed sense of empowerment, and learned ways of applying their enriching

experience to their everyday work. Beyond their personal gains, the participants are also better equipped to share what they've learned, and bring the experience in democracy leadership program to their communities and the people they serve. A benefit that provides for more than the individual participant.

Class 117 had a very busy schedule throughout their Tuesday thru Saturday stay in Washington. Upon their arrival they were able to visit the DC sites, but their leisurely stroll in the Capital City ended quick.

On Wednesday they began their leadership training with workshops, congressional update sessions, and developing their issues agenda for Congress. They were also able to partake in a community organizing and workers forum with the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement at the AFL-CIO. Class 117 took advantage of networking and learning from the cadre of professionals that assist in delivering and facilitating the different workshops, breakout sessions,



Congressman Silvestre Reyes (TX-Dem.) with delegates from Class 117

and forums.

The remaining days of the visit included meetings with their congressional representative, Congressman Silvestre Reyes (TX-Dem.), Lou Gallegos, Assistant Secretary for Administration at the US Department of Agriculture, members from the Department of Labor, and the Director of Migrant Education, Francisco Garcia.

Class 117 left with a strong sense of accomplishment, and we thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment in serving the migrant and immigrant communities. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Congratulations Class 117: "El Paso Migrant Education Program Region XIX"

Claudia Andrade	Illiana Chacon	Armida Elias	Olga Fernandez
Andres Martinez	Julie L. Ortiz	Marta Okubo Pena	Angelica Raya
Antonio Valverde	Terry Kampa	Luz E. Sierra	

Issues Agenda: El Paso Migrant Education Program Region XIX

I. EDUCATION

1. We propose that congress allocate money to the states for financial aid to all students including the undocumented that desire to go to college.
2. Extend education and training to migrants beyond the 12th grade.
3. Remove the middle class financial aid cut-off which prevents students from receiving financial aid if their parents earn above a certain basic level.

II. LABOR: MIGRANT WORKERS

1. We propose an increase of the wages to all farm and field workers in the United States, so that they can provide for their families.
2. Provide and monitor basic essentials in the fields such as bathrooms, childcare, clean water, etc.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

1. Provide economic incentives to create and provide new jobs.
2. Increase funding for job training.

IV. SOCIAL SERVICES

1. Increase funding to the states for increased Health and Human Services such as:
 - a. Sex Education
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. Support Enforcement of Child Support
 - d. Extend Benefits for CHIP.



Delegates developing an issues agenda.



Working lunch with the Department of Health and Human Services in Bethesda, MD.



On the steps of the Capitol with Congressman Silvestre Reyes (TX-Dem).



Class 117 visit the AFL-CIO.

Did you know?

The BCLI program values itself on incorporating the best of what Washington, DC has to offer in its Experience in Democracy Leadership Program. BCLI counts on a cadre of professional and key insiders in the areas of Politics, Business, Labor, Housing, Health and other issues affecting the migrant and immigrant communities. Working with international, national and local organizations BCLI guarantees a well structured training week and ensure a quality learning and training environment.