

EIDLDP CLASS 118: EL PASO, TEXAS Migrant Education Region XIX

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The Training Week

Summer 2002

From Washington, DC to El Paso, Texas; Migrant Students Learn What It Means to Be Civically Responsible and What They Need To Accomplish To Help Their Communities

WASHINGTON, DC, Aug. 19— Several weeks throughout the Summer, the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program provides training weeks for migrant and immigrant youths and adults to gain a better understanding of how democracy works. It also provides delegates with the training necessary to be leaders and advance the interest of their communities. During the week of August 11, the last EIDLDP training week for the year, a special group from El Paso, Class 118, was introduced to democracy leadership and a call to action that left the BCLI staff excited and awaiting the 2003 program season.

Every group that comes through these doors will always leave us something. Whether a sense of hope, a feeling of gratitude, and in some cases smelly gym socks. Either way there is always something there which will remind us of the fun and excitement that we shared with the delegates that leave us to pursue their call to action and advance their communities interests. Class 118 wasn't any difference in this sense, but they did leave us with something that we will

cherish for a very long time. Whether it was their Texan charm or their vision for the future. Class 118 left us with a sense of accomplishment that truly has kept us yearning for more.

It's hard to pinpoint whether it was their interactions with the offices of their congressional representatives (Congressman Silvestre Reyes TX-Dem, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson TX-Rep, Senator Phil Gramm TX-Dem), their meeting at the United States Department of Agriculture, their enthusiasm throughout their Washington tour and workshops and seminars, or perhaps their interaction with their counterpart delegates from Pennsylvania. One thing is for sure, Class 118 learned what it means to be civically responsible and what they need to accomplish to help their communities. I believe it is best highlighted by a Class 118 delegate as she wrote to her migrant director, "...now that I have learned about *public speaking, democracy, and leadership*, I am going to implement a *writing letter club in my school to continue advocating for my community.*"



El Paso students at the BCLI Campus: A Home Away From Home.

Throughout the summer we've seen the changes and transformations made by EIDLDP delegates from Why am I here? to I will take what I have learned to improve my community. As more participants make their way through the EIDLDP training week, especially those like Class 118 we rest assured that soon enough the interests of the immigrant and migrant communities across the nation will one day be met.

We want to thank El Paso Migrant Students - Class 118 for strengthening our mission by following their goals, dreams, and aspiration. We look forward to seeing you soon in our 2003 season and upcoming BCLI events.

Congratulations Class 118: "El Paso, TX Migrant Education Program Region XIX"

Gabriela Delgado	Job Salmon	Perla Margarita Esparza	Timothy Fierro	Jessica Garcia
Julian Manzo	Anna Garcia	Alejandro Mendoza	Roman Gomez	Brenda Paez
Elvira Licon	Jonathan Sanchez	Claudia Andrade*	Maria Saldana*	

* designates chaperone

Issues Agenda: El Paso, TX Migrant Education Program

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 118 to their congressional and local representatives:

I. Unemployment

- A. We propose that congress pass a law forbidden companies to relocate until all former employees are reemployed.

II. Immigration

- A. We propose the naturalization of all undocumented Immigrants who are willing to provide for our country and have settled here in the U.S. for over 5yrs.
- B. We also propose the naturalization of Immigrants if they have American children .
- C. We propose that immigrants who are already in the U.S. be granted an opportunity to have their documents processed a lot faster for the purpose of solving our illegal alien problem.
- D. We support amnesty for migrant workers that do not have the same benefits as others, by treating them equally.

III. Education

- A. We propose that congress provides programs for uneducated adults that allows them to get a better job.
- B. We support the attending of public schools by undocumented children without fear of deportation due to faculty and staff.
- C. We propose that scholarships and financial aid be equally available to all undocumented students.
- D. We also propose to higher teachers pay by decreasing unimportant materials in schools.
- E. We also propose more frequent evaluations on teachers and staff to make sure both teachers and students are involved in all their learning experience.

IV. Taxes

- A. We propose a decrease in taxes for the lower and middle working class and an increase in taxes for the upper class, for the purpose of balancing out the gaps between the “classes”.

V. Sexual education and Drug issues

- A. We support the motion for school districts to allow students to know more about sexual education and the risks that come with having sex by having the necessary materials (condoms, pills, etc.) That way student can make their own decisions.
- B. We propose that a Federal program about sex and drug issues should be put into effect by having qualified people go to sessions and speak.



Students developing agendas (above) A visit to the White House (below).



Did you know?

A core aspect of the EIDLDP leadership training is focused on public speaking. Participants practice public speaking skills with their peers, workshop facilitators, and in meetings with key government officials.

Developing their public speaking skills and given an opportunity to address *their* concerns to community and political spearheads provides participants of the EIDLDP program an empowering and unforgettable experience.



Class 118 meets with members of the United States Department of Agriculture.