

EIDLDP CLASS 113: Monterey County, California

Class 113: "Chicanos We Stand" Learns There is More to Active Citizenship than Just Voting.

WASHINGTON, DC, Jul. 22 — As soon as these new delegates from Monterey County, CA arrived to Washington, DC, they immediately realized the true power of a vote, and sure enough witnessed an emanating scent similar to that of the 2000 presidential elections.

As they worked their way through orientation the question about their class name was left to be answered. However unlike high profile elections, this voting tie would just have to go to another vote. Eventually, the name, "Chicanos We Stand," stood victorious and was logged into the Experience In Democracy history books.

Practically within minutes after they got off their flight, Class 113 was learning valuable lessons in Democracy, and awaiting a full week of "hands-on" leadership training.

The core training week programming kicked-off with the civic seminar on Power in the Political Arena facilitated by Patricia Campos, Legislative Representative of UNITE, AFL-CIO. BCLI President and CEO, E. Francisco Lopez has always focused on the importance of the structure of the Experience In De-

mocracy Leadership Program weeks. "The timing and placement of our core program elements is essential to the development of our trainees. By making sure that we provide the Power Seminar as the first session of our training week, we create the optimal learning opportunity for our students. The power seminar allows the students to understand that power in the political arena comes from the people. Once the students understand they have the tools necessary to make a difference in a democracy, they are more focused and more confident that the issues they develop will be heard by their congressional representatives. More importantly their trip to Washington is more than just sightseeing, but rather a lesson in democracy, and a quest for a change."

Mr. Lopez's insight became more evident as the students were given the opportunity to present their concerns when they met with their representatives: Congressman Sam Farr (CA-Dem.), Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA-Dem.), and aids from Senator Barbara Boxer's (CA-Dem.).

Among other highlights, Class 113 met with a number of Key Washington insid-



EIDLDP Class 113 and Cong. Cam Farr (CA-Dem..)

ers from the United States Department of Agriculture, DC local community leaders, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, and to top of the week a tour of the White House provided by the office of Senator Diane Feinstein.

This group out of Monterey County worked hard to make a change during their visit. We hope they continue with their efforts and look forward to their participation in future Experience in Democracy Leadership events. Again, we would like to thank Class 113, and wish them good luck on their future endeavors.

Congratulations Class 113: "CHICANO WE STAND"

Cindy Ibarra	Mayra Salcido	Alma Garcia	Omar Mendoza	Nancy Ramos	Elizabeth Celaya
Rafael Tabares	Abraham Martinez	Vivian Dominguez	Juan Rayas	Elvia Salgado	Daniela Martinez
Gladys Puga	Evelia Ramirez	Elizabeth Mendel	Maria Jimenez	Adriana Pantoja	Blanca Rosales
Martha Y. Vidauri	Sandra Echevarria*	Claudia Aguilar*			

* designates chaperone



Students writing letters to congressional representatives (above). Congressman Sam Farr (CA-Dem.) talks to students of Class 113 and shares his vision for California (below).



Did you know?

The Bert Corona Leadership Institute has a long established relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture, home of the United States Forest Service and Smokey the Bear (see below). The Department of Agriculture has provided great learning opportunities for EIDL P students by lending them the insight on services offered by the department for migrant farmworker families, as well as introducing the students to future internship and career options available through at the USDA.



EIDL P Class 113, at the United States Department of Agriculture, with USDA Forest Service Representative, Smokey the Bear.

Issues Agenda: Monterey County, CA

Issues and concerns addressed by Class 113 to their congressional and local representatives:

I. EDUCATION

- A. We propose that students from low economic backgrounds, who wish to continue into higher education, receive more financial aid support.
- B. We propose that our schools recruit more qualified teachers by providing salaries and improved benefits.
- C. We propose that educational credits of students from other countries be transferable and accepted as credits in schools across the United States.
- D. We ask for your support of bill S1291, The Dream Act, lending undocumented students to have the ability to further their education after high school.

II. LABOR

- A. We propose federal programs to create additional job opportunities for adolescents that promote positive community environments (i.e., creating jobs in recreational centers and youth programs.)

III. IMMIGRATION

- A. We propose the creation of a Federal Amnesty Program for long time undocumented residents in the United States. In doing so, it would benefit immigrants by providing them with a better future. In addition it would also benefit the country because they will now be able to pay taxes legally.
- B. We propose insurance for undocumented immigrants in the United States in an effort to benefit low-income workers.
- C. We propose additional aid to third world countries to provide equal opportunities in their homeland, and to decrease the number of illegal immigrants in the United States.

IV. HOUSING

- A. We propose to provide affordable housing, and safer housing codes to ensure suitable living conditions in our community.

V. CRIME PREVENTION

- A. We propose, in an effort to decrease crime, more effective training for police officers so they may enforce laws more effectively and efficiently.
- B. We propose an increase in the number of police officers, and after school programs to decrease the amount of violence in our communities.

VI. HEALTH

- A. We propose better insurance plans by raising the percentage of medical coverage to people and offering easier qualifications for medical insurance.
- B. We propose that most, if not all, jobs provide a medical plan for their workers, in order to assist them in paying their medical expenses.