

CLASS 119: SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CA

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The Training Week

March 2002

Class 119: Exhibiting Passion for Civic Responsibility

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar. 17 — This past week the Bert Corona Leadership Institute began a new program season to engage students in another year of “Experience In Democracy”. The Institute kicked-off the 2003 Program Season with migrant youth from San Joaquin County, California.

These San Joaquin County students arrived Sunday afternoon to a home-made BCLI dinner, and a thorough orientation for the week to come. Anticipation ran high for this group. On one hand we had students eager to experience democracy, and on the other, BCLI staff members eager to begin another training season. As promised the EIDL provided the best in experiential learning and fun.

The first part of the week the students concentrated on learning the building blocks of power and politics, the internal



Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA-Dem.) meets with student representatives from San Joaquin County, California during a senatorial breakfast meeting.

workings of the government, and creating their civic agenda. Key program elements which are always conducted before the student meet with their congressional, elected and non-elected officials.

The program is intentionally designed in this format to provide the students with the necessary tools to fully understand their purpose on Capitol Hill and in Washington, D.C. The purpose of this design is to help students understand their role as civically active participants in their communities, and to assist the students by setting a tone for a level of commitment, and maturity that is required in

leadership. Class 119 exemplified leadership among many other of the characteristics personified by their class name “Lions”. The other characteristics exerted were the qualities of intelligence, courage, independence, and motivation.

As they continually overcame the challenges posed by an overwhelming academic experience, Class 119 moved forward with their agenda and their plan. The students prepared for meetings with their congressional

representatives by developing an agenda and practicing their public speaking skills.

Class 119 visited with the offices of their congressional representative Richard Pombo, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and in addition members of the US Department of Labor.

Class 119 exhibited passion for their civic responsibility. The roar of the “Lions” will be remembered at BCLI. We wish them the best of luck, and may they continue their efforts in advancing the needs of their communities.

Congratulations Class 119: “LIONS: Leadership, Wise, Brave, Independent, and Motivator”

Gustavo Medina	Ana Ramirez	Jose Hernandez	Eduardo Segura	Rosalio Castellon	Fernando Montoya
David Castellon	Jose Parocua	Ismael Gonzalez	Janet Franco	Stephanie Luangvala	Juan Miranda
Alma Salcedo	Veronica Zavala	Abraham Padilla	Sandra Ochoa	Griselda Avila	Claudia Magana
Naville Chavero	Bibiana Garcia	Liliana Martinez	Alejandro Tafoya	Rosa Ramirez	Guadalupe Prado
Emilio de Guevara	Marisol Pelayo	Selene Hernandez	Lizette Mata	Angelica Tapia	Dora Ceja
Ismael Gonzalez	Ricardo Andrade	Manuel Nunez*	Alicia Villanueva*	Maria Pacheco*	

* designates chaperone

Issues Agenda: Class 119 - San Joaquin County, CA

These issues, concerns and solutions were developed by EIDLDP Class 119. Their purpose to make a difference in their communities, and make their communities a better place.



Class 119 developing issues.

Immigration

Issues:

Why are undocumented students being deported?

1. Trying to go to college?
2. Stay away from poverty
3. Government will benefit from successful people

4. Develop better economy in different countries
5. They contribute to this country. Ex. They pay taxes.

Solution:

1. Personal information should be confidential.
2. Keep track of their actions.
3. School staff should not call immigration
4. Should have equal rights as other students

Labor

Issues:

- A. Agricultural workers do not have benefits
 1. Vacation without pay. (If there is even a vacation)
 2. Medical insurance
 3. Better living conditions
 4. Unfair wages
 5. Working conditions
 6. No babysitting available

Solution:

1. Provide babysitting
2. Provide medical insurance for the whole family
3. Provide decent living conditions
4. Fair raise depending on work capabilities
5. Provide necessary equipment for appropriate season



Class 119 discussing their concerns with members from the US Department of Labor.

Issues:

B. Women should get paid the same wage as men

1. They are doing the same job
2. They have the same responsibilities
3. It is stated in the constitution that we are equal
4. There is more money for the family

Solution:

The manager should look into the employee's education and

experience. There should be a law supporting this so people are not overlooked.

Education

Issues

Why are undocumented students not receiving government money for further education?

1. Opportunities for successful high school students are being denied because they are undocumented students, so they are not receiving higher education benefits.
2. It is important for students to better their education because it gives people a chance to find better employment,



Presenting issues amongst peers.

which will in turn get people a chance to improve their living conditions and the American society

3. This issue is important for society because in the past community members have brought this issue to the attention of important officials

4. Important officials from both the House of Representatives and the Senate have brought up this issue and acts such as the student Adjustment Act and Dream Act have supported this cause.
5. People with low paying jobs are forced to turn to alternatives which sometimes can include selling drugs or committing acts of violence, but with a good education people are able to support their families with the sufficient amount of money.

Solution:

1. Students should be given a reasonable amount of Government money to further their education and in return students must provide their communities with free services that will benefit students just like them.
2. An educated America only allows educated people to further value the American Values and morals, which our democracy is based upon. This spark of knowledge only ignites an interest in their government. This gives people an interest to want to vote and to get politically involved within their community.
3. People with higher education are able to find better paying jobs and these people do not have to look for jobs on the streets. These people will only be a benefit to the American Economy.