

# recent EIDL graduates

## CLASS 104

### Migrant Education Region 3, Merced County, CA

Alma Y. Rodriguez, Patterson; Alondra Aguayo, Madera; Anna Perez, Madera; Aurora Segura, Merced; Benjamin Ruiz, Riverbank; Bernardo Valencia, Modesto; Brenda Ledezma, Gustine; Cecilia Jimenez, Livigston; Cesar Granados, Le Grand; Christina Granados, Winton; Elsa Mendoza, Modesto; Gerardo Martinez, Atwater; Jessica Pimentel, Delhi; Jesus I Estrada, Merced; Jose Vargas, Le Grand; Jose Rodriguez, Modesto; Jose Salcedo, Modesto; Juan Rodriguez, Riverbank; Kenia Rivera, Madera; Laura Perez, Modesto; Luis Castillo, Shortline; Luz Maria Mora, Madera; Maria Jaramillo, Denair; Maria Vivar, Patterson; Maria J. Esteva, Merced; Mayra Torres, Oakdale; Nataly Tostado, Modesto; Patricia Andrade, Firebaugh; Raquel Arreola, Ceres; Raudelina E. Mata, Chowchilla; Rosa Zamora, Newman; Rosana Rodriguez, Riverbank; Rosaura Garcia, Gustine; Selene Mendez, Madera; Teresa Reyna, Turlock.

We, The Future Leaders of America come from the Central Valley of California. We represent the following High Schools: Merced, Atwater, Dos Palos, Madera, Gustine, Delhi, Oakdale, Chowchilla, Hughson, Denair, Patterson, Modesto, Riverbank, Downey, Ceres, Orestimba, Le Grand, Davis, Golden Valley, Livingston, Johansen, and the EIDL Staff. We also represent our parents who are migrant workers, and work hard to put food on Americans' tables. We are here to represent their concerns and demands. The following are the issues that directly affect our community:

### ON IMMIGRATION

1. We support "General Amnesty" for the 5 million undocumented workers in the United States today because we want these workers be protected from exploitation. These workers are already here paying taxes, and they should receive benefits because they are providing for the economy as well.

2. We want farm workers to be protected under the federal minimum wage law because in the legislation there is nothing about farm workers. The Federal Minimum Wage Law is \$5.15, but agricultural workers aren't protected by this law. For example, in Texas the minimum wage for farm workers is \$3.15.

3. We don't support the guest workers policy program because a program that brings in temporary workers mainly from Mexico to work in the fields are also not protected under U.S. Labor Laws. These workers are exploited and are used by the companies to depress wages and discriminate against local workers. Instead of bringing in new workers from abroad they should legalize the ones that are already here so they can become stable and better able to raise the families.

### ON EDUCATION

1. We support equal distribution of resources (money) for public schools, so we can have: smaller classes which will benefit our individual attention, updated textbooks, good buildings, more technology, better spending at the local level, and result in concentration on education vs., athletics.

2. We believe that more money should be spent on schools rather than prisons. More resources should be spent towards bilingual education/ testing in Spanish. Standardized testing should not be used as the only tool to evaluate the student's knowledge.



*"We learned that people have the power, they are the voice of our communities and they can shape the economy of our country"*



Senator Boxer's Legislative Aid talking with students.

*"I learned that all people have power and there are two types of power: PEOPLE that symbolize the voice and MONEY which symbolizes the economy. Together our PEOPLE and their VOICES must be use to help our own communities have representation."*



Congresswoman Hilda Solís talking with students.

*"We learned more this week than in all of our government and history classes."*