



November 2008

Dear Supporter/Partner,

Wow! What an **historic** time for our democracy as we inaugurate a new president, we also witnessed **the power of grass roots participation in reshaping a nation**. At BCLI we continue to empower the lives of students and adults from farm working, immigrant, and developing communities across America. **We believe that we have an opportunity for changing our communities by developing grassroots leadership, and promoting civic participation in our nation**. Meanwhile, we are also working to support academic goals for students by affording real life applications to government, civics, math, science, and leadership development, and we are promoting capacity development training for adult parents.

This year **335 high school students and 58 adult chaperones** completed the week long “Experience in Democracy Leadership Program” at BCLI. Moreover, BCLI hosted **30 parents from the state of California and Texas, and 24 CAMP students**.

We believe that our increase number reflects the **overall quality and deliverables** of the program at BCLI. Moreover, some of our outcomes noted are increased student performance in schools, increased self-esteem, and increased civic participation. **We invite you to support us by making a donation and/or by becoming a partner**.

We are also focused on a several key projects that need your support:

- **Making the Case for Congressional Funding:
Abstract from Position Paper**

For more than three decades the United States Congress has supported programs which serve to strengthen public understanding of the workings of American government and prepare young people to be informed and engaged citizens. This paper presents the case for Congressional support for the Bert Corona Leadership Institute (BCLI), specifically for its flagship program, the Experience in Democracy Leadership Program (EDLP). BCLI was established in 2001 as a nonpartisan nonprofit organization to provide training and experience in the formation of public policy for the nation’s growing Latino community. Its Mission is to promote civic participation, education, and economic advancement among migrant and immigrant youth. The EDLP provides a week of civics education, leadership development, and practical experience to groups of young people and adults mainly from rural and migrant communities across the country. In 2007 the program is serving nearly 350 participants. In addition to the EDLP, BCLI organizes an annual student “summit” in the San Joaquin Valley in California and other events and activities, which are an expression of its mission. BCLI operates with a full-time staff of three, plus contracted staff in the spring and summer, and has an annual budget of \$850,000.

- **Cornell University's Migrant Program Evaluation Project.**

BCLI and Cornell University Migrant Farm Worker Program have begun to conduct a comprehensive evaluation on the impact that our programs are having on the populations that we are serving. While we are at the start phase of this project, we anticipate completion by the end of 2009. For more information on this project and to sign up for a copy of the final report, please contact us at info@bcli.info.

- **DC Voting Rights Project: Abstract BCLI's Current Proposal:**

Context and Need: Participation in democracy is an issue close to the heart of residents of the national capital. Since the nation's founding the District of Columbia has been denied full political representation. It currently has a representative in Congress, but without the right to vote "ay" or "nay" for legislation debated by the full House of Representatives. Recently, the latter body approved a bill which would provide such voting rights. The legislation is now being considered in the United States Senate. Whether the proposed legislation continues to be stalled or is approved soon by a veto-proof Congressional majority, it is imperative to prepare the District's future voters for full participation in the American political system. Supporters of full representation for the District believe, and BCLI concurs, that it is simply a matter of time before Washington, D.C.'s Congressional representative has full voting privileges. We are seeking funding to customize a grassroots curriculum and conduct a series of training to DC Students over a 2-3 year campaign. For a complete proposal and more information about how to get involved and support this project contact us at info@bcli.info or E. Francisco Lopez at 202-251-6939.

On behalf of our board of directors we appreciate and thank our donors and partners who have helped us to continue our work to help so many of America's youth in the process. **We invite you to continue your support by making a donation and/or by becoming a partner.** You can do this today online at www.BCLI.info

Sincerely, on behalf BCLI,

E. Francisco Lopez, Esq.
President and CEO