

Sierra School at El Camino: Civics Class Heads to State Capitol May 29, 2007



Assembly Majority Leader, Karen Bass “47th Assembly District” (*center*) meets with students and teachers from [Sierra School at El Camino](#). The students and their teachers also received a warm welcome from Ms. Bass’s Chief of Staff, Nolice Edwards (*far left*) and Rory Kaufman, Consultant to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (*back row, second from right*). Jessica Gundersen and Marcus McKinney (*not pictured*), who are both staff policy consultants for Ms. Bass on children’s issues, were also present. Ms. Bass, elected to the State Assembly in 2005, has dedicated herself to improving the state’s children & youth services and education policies, and her efforts have really made a difference.

The civics course was just added this year by Sierra School at El Camino, and if this showing is any indication of the future, there is no doubt they are headed for success. The students as well as teachers clearly displayed dedication and commitment.

The time and attention given to these students by Assembly Majority Leader Karen Bass and staff -- which lasted nearly 20 minutes -- was actually their second meeting of the day. The group had started off their day arriving first for a meeting at Assemblyman Merv Dymally’s office “52nd Assembly District” where they were

eagerly greeted by Mr. Dymally's dedicated staff and his Chief of Staff, Dr. Kenneth Orduna. Rory Kaufman from the Speaker's office, who also played a major role in making arrangements for the Sierra School students, met them at Mr. Dymally's office and spent the rest of the day with the groups as they made their scheduled meetings.



Chief of Staff, Dr. Kenneth Orduna, meeting with Students in Assemblyman Dymally's office

The students enjoyed nearly one hour in Mr. Dymally's office which was filled with rich and rewarding historical information. Dr. Kenneth Orduna (*above, pointing to a picture of Mr. Dymally & Caesar Chavez*) gave the group a detailed history of Mr. Dymally's dedication to education and his political career which also included his time as a US Congressional Member and Lt. Governor of California. Assemblyman Dymally is currently the Chair of the Assembly Health Committee and Legislative Black Caucus.

Dr. Kenneth Orduna really reached out to the students and actively engaged them in conversation as he spoke with each student individually, offering words of encouragement, wisdom and hope.

After the meetings at Assemblyman Dymally’s office and with Assembly Majority Leader, Karen Bass, the Sierra School students headed to the Press Room with Rory Kaufman from the Speakers office. Rory had made special arrangements for the student to have the Press Room for a half an hour for a personal presentation by Fredericka McGee, General Counsel to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez.



Fredericka McGee, General Counsel to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez (center at podium)

Rory Kaufman started the presentation. Once again Rory really engaged the group, sharing his experiences growing up in Los Angeles and how a good education, making good choices, remaining dedicated and committed can make anything possible.

Fredericka McGee, General Counsel to Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, did a final address to the group, sharing her own experience with a message that certainly made the point of how hard work and education can lead to making dreams a reality.

Fredericka, along with all of the others who met with these fine students, have made a heart felt impact and impression that will be remembered for the rest of their lives.

For more information on Sierra School’s locations, programs and their dedication to the special needs of students, please visit: www.kids1inc.com/sierraschool/