

Kudos to Katie!

By Hanna Kim

I am contributing to shared leadership by assuming shared responsibility for our campaign against corporate exploitation and the processes involved in making the rally and picket line both educational and fun. We as a group have taken the initiative to meet on a weekly basis, share ideas and collaborate on strategies to make the Assi immigrant stories reverberate among the student and community members. Guided by the Leadership Training Workshop in the Course Reader, we are recruiting the support of on campus groups. We have had some success in that arena. Thus far, the Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) is supporting the Assi campaign. We have to set a timeline in addition to a presentation to be delivered at their general meetings sometime weeks 5 through 8, which will be discussed in next week's meeting. We are currently developing a political strategy for groups with respect to the rally and picket line. We are planning to have speakers come and give a voice to the Assi workers. It would also be a good idea to have several workers share their experiences and to have translators available in English, Spanish, and Korean to facilitate the event. In addition, we are managing tasks, contacting KIWA organizer Cindy Cho, and collecting information pertinent to making the rally and picket line move smoothly.

We foster a nurturing environment whose culture respects diversity, dignity and the character of each individual. We promote learning, development and enjoyable activities to allow everyone to grow in their leadership skills.

The role I see is as a facilitator, educating and connecting people specifically students and community members. In essence, I would be serving as a spokesperson by writing and speaking at various general meetings. The expertise that I gain by listening to the Assi workers will hopefully be transplanted into the hearts of all and incite positive action toward change and to enable each person to recognize that he/she is an active agent of change in their communities. This will allow them to take leadership positions in their relative fields, and by informing them of Philip Veracruz and Glenn Omatsu's vision of shared leadership, they will have powerful tools for social change.

The person I envision as one who practices shared leadership is Katie Li. With her work at Boston, she has demonstrated that she not only is able to eloquently voice people's concerns, but also is able to understand and listen to their personal stories. This, she believes, is vital for organization and mobilization. She is critically aware of the issues that affect disenfranchised, oppressed people, and she has the courage to speak out and act against the injustices that she sees. I hope that she will continue to work with the community here in Los Angeles. Her motivation and sheer will can allow her to be as effective as she was at Boston as she is at UCLA. Kudos to Katie!