

Los Angeles WAVE

A2

Thursday, November 22, 2007



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Los Angeles, honors Andrew Stephens, right, a teacher at the California Academy for Liberal Studies High School downtown, and two of his students, Charles Ghiotto, left, and Jaclyn Lopez, for their participation in the Power Shift 2007 conference in Maryland Nov. 2-5. The conference was part of a national youth summit on the global climate crisis.

Teacher, students take part in national summit on climate crisis

Wave Staff Report

LOS ANGELES — Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard, D-Los Angeles, had praise recently for a local teacher and two of his students.

At the recent Power Shift 2007 conference, held Nov. 2-5 in Maryland, Andrew Stephens, a teacher at the California Academy for Liberal Studies High School in downtown, and students Jaclyn Lopez and Charles Ghiotto participated in a national youth summit on the global climate crisis.

The two students, both of

Cypress Park, presented their success story about cleaning up their school and neighborhood.

They were among-nearly 5,000 people attending the conference, mostly students from throughout the country.

The school's cleanup effort, which started in September 2006, was organized by a group of dedicated students and Stephens, who founded the Mean Green Team. The team has been involved in many projects totalling more than 600 volunteer hours.

One of the projects, La Gran

Limpieza, is one of the largest urban river cleanups in the country with 2,000 volunteers removing more than 30 tons of litter from the Los Angeles River.

In addition, the Mean Green Team last year presented results of an indoor air quality assessment of their school to the school board, resulting in direct actions to improving their air quality.

In recognition of Stephens and the Mean Green Team, Earth Day Network — an environmental advocacy organization — is sponsoring his work through the National Civic Education Project, a grant for teachers to improve civic and environmental education in their schools.