



Supporting the economic, social and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley.

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California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley Board Update

I am very excited to report on the progress we have made towards increasing digital literacy in the targeted communities of Delano, Pixley and Stockton. As you all know in much of our daily life the use of email word processing and internet navigation are necessary skills. Members of the targeted communities have few opportunities to learn these technical skills further limiting their choices including advancement in their current positions, seeking employment and educational opportunities. When technology is available many choose not to use it due to their fears of identity theft or possibly exposing their children to inappropriate materials stemming from a lack of knowledge and understanding of these dangers. As a result continuing education, access to social media, online business training, online banking and other essential services provided by the internet are limited. But thanks to the WIA Adult Programs grant we are able to use technology to improve economic, education, social and cultural opportunities.

Our Deliverables Include:

- Identify three demonstrated projects geographically distributed in different counties of the Valley.
- Enrolling at least one hundred fifty WIA eligible clients into digital literacy programs across the three sites.
- Collaborate with local school districts, WIB's and other resource organizations.
- Provide pre and post test to assess and measure program participants' digital literacy.
- Provide curriculum which includes: accessing the internet, creating and using email accounts and social networking sites, learning various software applications such as Word and Excel, writing a business plan, building a resume, looking for work and submitting job applications on line, setting up and using on line banking and enrolling and participating in distance learning courses to further education and business training.

To date we have graduated two classes one in Pixley and another in Delano of twenty seven participants. We are now operating two new classes with a total of thirty two participants in Delano and Pixley and plan to have the Stockton site begin with over fifty participants in February. One of our current participants Martha E. Ramirez wrote the following testimony in her own words:

My name is Martha E. Ramirez the reason that I am interested this class of computers is because my dream is to work in an office and in these times of technology so is important to know how to use a computer. What I like of the class is indeed this that from the first minute which we already began these classes started learning what is to know how to use a computer. This moves me credit the teacher Ms. Velasquez. She is the prettiest person very patient and very good teacher. I would like to learn everything she can show me. I

think I can get ahead and advance and believe that day to day it will happen. The challenges that I have are that I do not have a computer outside the class but that it can be solved. I will begin to save to be able to buy one for me. My better qualities that I have is that I enjoy studying I like to learn and surpass and to me I make this standard for my children and by my children's better future. This class has shown me the important thing that is to be updated in all aspects of life. We always must follow ahead as they say in my earth a good rooster where it wants sings.

We are so proud of our program participants many of whom English is their second language and they are working hard to be able to communicate not only verbally but in written form which we encourage. This program is truly making a difference in our program participants every day lives. They are now able to send emails to their children's teachers, speak with relatives near and far, verify their bank account balances and look for work. Thank you for the opportunity to share our progress and we look forward to continued success!