

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Patrick S. Blacklock County Administrator

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English Conversation Groups at the Arthur F. Turner Community Library

(Woodland, CA) – The Arthur F. Turner Community Library is currently providing a venue for English conversation groups on Friday mornings and Sunday afternoons. English conversation groups are intended to provide participants opportunity to increase language skills through practice.

"One of the greatest needs for adults learning English is the opportunity to practice their listening and speaking skills in a safe and secure environment," said Yolo County Supervisor Mike McGowan. "Many English-learners rarely have that opportunity as often, only their native language is spoken in the home or with friends in the community. Conversation groups will increase the confidence of English-learners so they feel more comfortable using their English language skills in new and unfamiliar settings."

"Yolo County's library programs have been extremely innovative in developing services for our English-learners," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen Thomson. "The English conversation groups complement our very successful bilingual story times and parenting workshops."

In this small, group-based opportunity, volunteers facilitate conversation so participants can practice oral and listening skills. Conversation groups are meant to provide English-learners an environment in which they can take risks with sympathetic listeners in a comfortable, non-threatening setting. In English conversation groups, learners can ask questions, share experiences and express spontaneous speech. English conversation groups are being held during the following days and times:

Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Fridays: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Sundays: 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information about English conversation groups, contact Cheryl F. Chapel at (916) 375-6465 or visit <u>www.yolocountylibrary.org</u> (select Library Events on the sidebar menu).