



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Celebration Honors Adult Learners and Volunteers**

(Woodland, CA) – On September 13, Yolo Reads, the Yolo County Library literacy program, held its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Celebration. The celebration honored the efforts of adults in Yolo County to improve their reading and writing, and the dedication of the volunteers who assist them.

During the literacy celebration, Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza spoke of how the Yolo Reads program helps develop and improve employment skills and how valuable literacy is to people, families and communities. “Literacy is such an important factor in today’s society,” said Provenza. “I was happy with the positive turnout at the celebration and happy to be able to acknowledge our adult learners and the invaluable support of our volunteers.”

During the literacy celebration, two tutor-learner pairs shared their experiences. Tutor Darleen and learner Laura spoke about how Yolo Reads improved Laura’s confidence and her ability to communicate with her children’s teachers. Additionally, Laura’s children gave a short speech about how proud they were of their mother’s achievements. Tutor Rosemary and learner Sofia remarked on how Sofia’s eyes were opened to American culture through learning to read and write. Both Laura and Sofia passed their citizenship tests this year and are looking forward to voting in November.

The literacy celebration brought the support and presence of many, including Matt Ivler, representing Senator Lois Wolk and Andrew Benware, representing Assemblymember Mariko Yamada who both spoke to their representatives’ support for Yolo Reads. Julie Gallelo, director of First 5 Yolo, and Sharon Hallberg of the Library Advisory Board, also showed their support.

Nugget Markets generously donated entrees for the celebration and Panaderia Mana provided pan dulce for dessert. Grumpy Goats Farm and the West Sacramento Friends of the Library graciously donated money to provide gifts for the tutors and learners in the Yolo Reads program.

Yolo Reads is always looking for volunteers to provide instruction to English-speaking adult learners and is especially in need of volunteers able to tutor adults in Winters and Esparto.

Yolo Reads is also seeking assistance with spreading the word about the program to those in need of assistance. For those interested in tutoring, no experience is necessary, the hours are flexible and Yolo Reads provides all necessary training and materials. To learn more about the program, call Yolo Reads at (866) 609-7303 (toll free) or e-mail [maria.sandoval@yolocounty.org](mailto:maria.sandoval@yolocounty.org)

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