

COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Sharon JensenCounty Administrator

Beth Gabor Public Information Officer 625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695 (530) 666-8150 • FAX (530) 668-4029 www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 6, 2009

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer (530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

Promote Literacy in Your Community

Refer an Adult Learner to Yolo Reads or Volunteer at the Yolo County Library

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Library adult literacy program, Yolo Reads, is sponsoring both a tutor orientation and a tutor training workshop in April. The two-hour orientation will be held on the evening of Apr. 22 at the Mary L. Stephens Branch Library in Davis for those interested in volunteering to provide instruction to English-speaking adult learners. The orientation will be followed by the tutor training workshop on Apr. 25 at the Mary L. Stephens Branch Library in Davis. Participants must attend the orientation prior to the workshop or make alternate arrangements. For more specifics on the program, call Yolo Reads at (866) 609-7303 (toll free) or e-mail heather.bratt@yolocounty.org.

One in six Yolo County residents cannot read and write sufficiently to carry out day-to-day activities at work and home. In an effort to address this issue, the Yolo County Library has developed Yolo Reads, a literacy program which provides free and confidential instruction to English-speaking adult learners. Learners receive one-on-one support from volunteer tutors, free materials to cover a six month period, free computer use, and access to the Yolo County Library collections. Tutoring space is available at each of the seven county library branches located in the communities of Davis, West Sacramento, Clarksburg, Winters, Esparto, Knights Landing and Yolo.

"Do you know someone – a co-worker, a friend or a family member – who has difficulty reading and writing? Chances are you know at least one person," said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Mike McGowan. "Please share with them information about Yolo Reads, our adult literacy program through the Yolo County Library."

"We encourage Yolo County residents to spread the word about our adult literacy program to those in need of assistance, and if able, to share the rewards of reading by volunteering to help adult learners improve their reading skills," said Patty Wong, Yolo County Librarian. "You truly can make a real difference. No experience is necessary, the hours are flexible and we provide all the training and materials."

Yolo Reads is especially in need of volunteers able to tutor adult learners in Winters, Esparto and West Sacramento. To learn more about the program, or to sign-up to attend the tutor orientation on Apr. 22, call Yolo Reads at (866) 609-7303 (toll free) or e-mail heather.bratt@yolocounty.org. Participants are required to attend the orientation prior to attending the workshop. For those interested in volunteering, but unable to attend the orientation, contact Yolo Reads to make alternate arrangements.