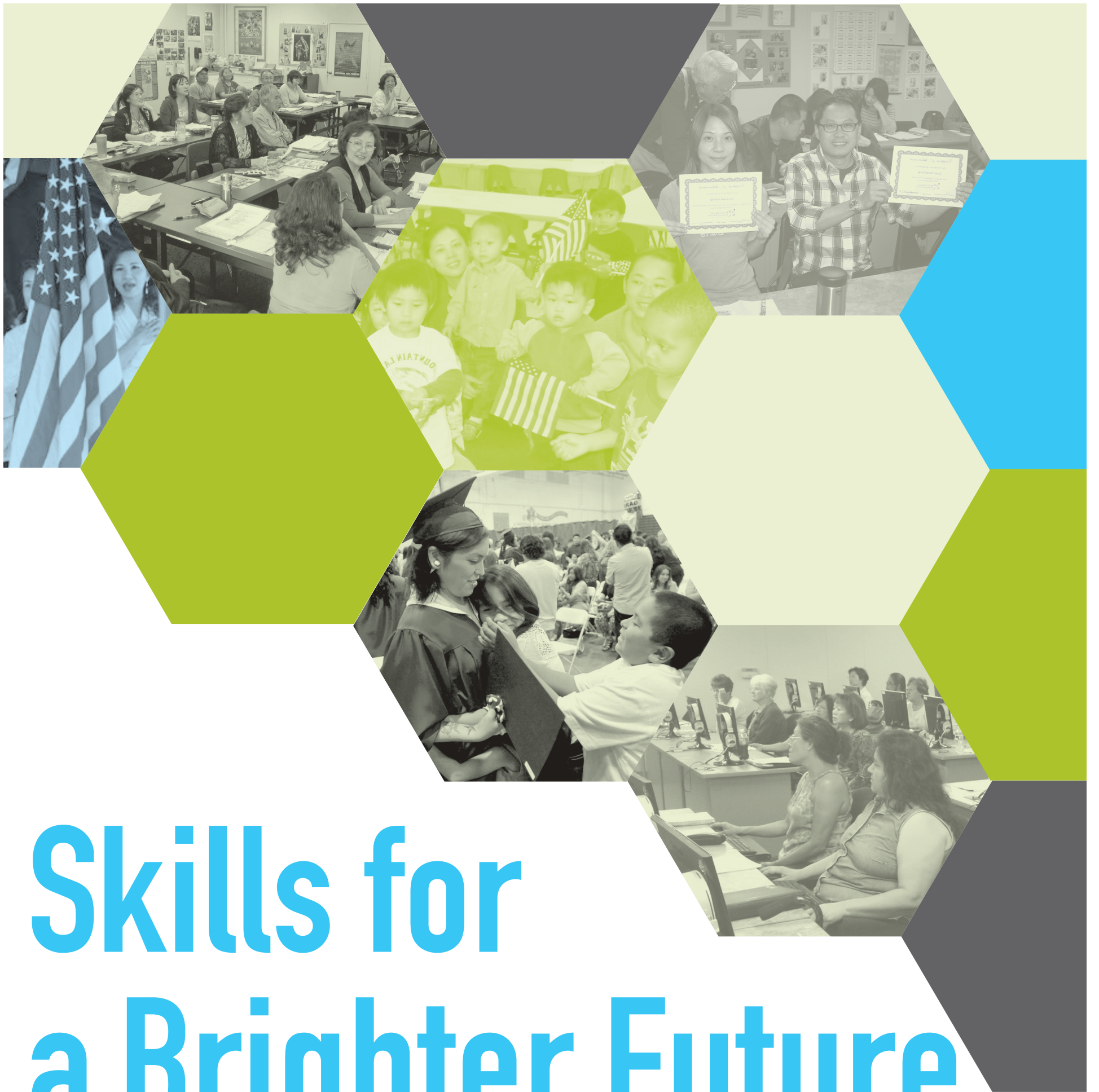




Skills for a Brighter Future

HACIENDA LA PUENTE ADULT SCHOOL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION • ROWLAND ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT

Adult Schools Serve A Need In The Local Community

Helping you further your education (and maybe get a cheap haircut)

BY NATASHA VON KAENEL



Rocky Bettar and Cynthia Parulan-Colfer

Education. But often times, he says, students are nervous about coming back to school. “So it’s our goal to help them with their baby steps, so they gain confidence in their abilities in the classroom, and they see that their goal is attainable.”

When the school district became unified in 1971, Rowland began offering adult education programs, which now include English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship, Adult-Secondary Education, GED preparation and community interest classes such as dance, golfing and job improvement, Bettar says. He emphasizes that because adult education is not mandatory, no two adult schools are alike. He says that each school is like a community center, constantly changing and adjusting its programs to best fit the needs of its local population.

Cynthia Parulan-Colfer agrees. Parulan-Colfer is the superintendent of Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, which is located a few miles northwest of Rowland. “I talk about [Hacienda La Puente] like a community center because we are not only here to provide education. We are here to provide services to the community, whether it is a haircut, or an oil change, or a repair of your refrigerator,” she says. “It is an opportunity for everybody to help each other. You help a student learn and they help you get your thing fixed, or get you a new haircut, at a lower cost.”

“Students come because something inside them says, ‘I want to get additional education.’”

**Rocky Bettar, Director at
Rowland Adult and Community Education**

Hacienda La Puente started offering adult education classes in the 1950s. It started out with basic education and short-term career programs. Over the last seven decades, Hacienda has grown to be the second largest adult school in California, offering a wide range of courses to more than 20,000 adult and high school students each year. Hacienda has similar classes as Rowland, but due to its size is able to offer free ESL and Citizenship classes and a wide range of vocational courses geared specifically toward getting people work.

Hacienda maintains close community partnerships with corporations including Whirlpool, Pep Boys and Samsung, which often donate supplies and offer internships and jobs to students after graduation. For students in the medical programs, Hacienda has partnerships with more than 50 medical clinics. Its close involvement with the medical community has led to Hacienda running its own dental and medical clinic, which provides low-cost dental and medical care to the community, while teaching its students at the same time.

“It’s never too late. Don’t think you can’t. Think you can and we will figure out how to help you get there.”

**Cynthia Parulan-Colfer, Superintendent at
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District**

Due to budget cuts, Rowland has focused its efforts on providing classes that are most needed in the community, which Bettar says have always been GED preparation, high school diploma, ESL and citizenship classes. And Bettar says at Rowland, they really try to make sure their students know they care about their success. If a student stops coming to class, “Our teachers reach out to students to ask where they are and how they are doing. We send postcards to the students, that say, ‘Hey, we haven’t seen you in awhile. We miss you, come back,’” Bettar says. He says the individual attention and personal support from teachers and staff make Rowland students successful.

Both Bettar and Parulan-Colfer emphasize the importance of lifelong education, but recognize that it’s hard for many adults to come back to school. Returning students often have families, jobs and busy schedules. Whatever barriers they may face, Hacienda and Rowland students can get help overcoming them. Hacienda offers financial aid in the form of federal PELL grants, which can help with some of the costs of education. Both schools have dozens of convenient locations and classes that fit students’ schedules.

Parulan-Colfer has seen how adult education changes lives, not only for her students but for her family as well. Her grandparents came from the Philippines and learned English and gained citizenship through adult education programs. Her three cousins all went through the nursing program at Hacienda and are now employed in the medical industry. Parulan-Colfer says, “It’s never too late. Don’t think you can’t. Think you can, and we will figure out how to help you get there.”



A Lifelong Learner

Octogenarian earns GED

BY MIKE BLOUNT

Billy Lee knows that with determination anything is possible. That's why in his 80s, he decided it was the right time to reclaim something he was robbed of when he was just a small boy — an education.

When Lee was just 11 years old, the Imperial Japanese Army overran his home in Indonesia in March 1942. Lee dropped out of school to help his father tend to their farmland to feed his family during the occupation, but Lee had only gone to school for two years prior to that. After the war, his family immigrated to the United States.

“I wanted [my grandchildren] to know how important education is to me.”

Billy Lee, Rowland Adult and Community Education GED recipient

As the years passed and Lee had two children of his own, he always stressed to them the importance of an education so they could have better lives. Lee says going back to school was always in the back of his mind, but the timing was never right — until he was in his 80s.

“At this age, I heard people say that you can go back and get your high school diploma, so I started looking for a school,” Lee says.

Lee kept it a secret at first because he was unsure if he would be able to succeed in school after having been out of school for so long.

“I didn't know if I could do it, but I wanted to try, so I didn't tell anyone I was going to night school,” Lee says.

But he soon found the confidence he needed once he was able to pass his first test toward his GED requirements. To earn a diploma, adults must pass tests covering subjects such as English, algebra, visual and performing arts, social studies, American government, and world and U.S. history. Lee studied four nights a week to master each of these subjects and soon met the requirements for earning a GED.

“After the test, I felt encouraged in myself and I felt like I could get through,” Lee says. “When I passed, I told my grandchildren and they gave me support.”

But he didn't stop there.

Lee pushed himself to take the California High School Exit Examination and passed that as well. For all of his hard work, Lee earned special recognition during the commencement exercises for Rowland Adult and Community Education's graduating classes.

Lee says he is planning on signing up for even more classes he is interested in, like psychology. But for now, he is content with achieving the goal he set for himself when he first started looking into adult schools in his area.

“I wanted [my grandchildren] to know how important education is to me,” Lee says.



Billy Lee received his GED from Rowland Adult and Community Education in June (bottom). Lee with his granddaughter Audris Fan (top).

ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION

Through adult secondary education classes (ASE) at Rowland Adult and Community Education or Hacienda La Puente Adult Education, adults who never finished or didn't graduate high school can earn their diploma. Both campuses offer GED Test Preparation classes or High School Diploma classes that work with each student

to acquire the credits they need to earn a GED or high school diploma. Financial aid may be available to those who apply. Visit www.hlpae.com and race.rowland.k12.ca.us for more information. **MB**



Cooking up a New Career

Student pursues the culinary arts at Hacienda La Puente

BY AMANDA CARAWAY

When Nichole Granger was laid off from her dental assistant job in 2004, she decided it was an opportunity to pursue her dream of becoming a chef. Granger began cooking for her family when she was only 9 years old and kept that passion through her adult years.

“If you ask my friends they will tell you that the one thing I love in this world besides my children is food,” Granger says. “I love to cook for people. It brings me joy to watch them eat what I have made.”

“There is a whole world of information out there. I am learning a lot about myself, too.”

Nichole Granger

Granger attended the Dental Assisting program at Hacienda La Puente Adult School and Continuing Education and really liked the school. When she discovered Hacienda’s new Culinary Arts program she was excited to return.

“It is a completely affordable school,” Granger says. “The Dental Assisting program was excellent, and if it wasn’t for my love of food I would probably still be in that industry.”

Granger loves the small class sizes and hands-on approach of the program. She also enjoys the teachers at Hacienda. A chef who studied at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Las Vegas leads her classes.

“I feel like I am learning all the things at Hacienda that students are learning at the top culinary schools, maybe more,” Granger says.



PHOTO BY FRANK LEWIS

Nichole Granger decided to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a chef at Hacienda La Puente Adult Education.

One of Granger’s favorite aspects of Hacienda’s program is the study of international cuisine. She enjoys learning about the different techniques and ingredients used in cuisine from Spain, France, India, the British Isles and others.

“When I graduate I hope to travel and study in the different countries that we have learned about,” Granger says.

Granger also enjoys learning about the intellectual part of cooking. At Hacienda, students study the history of food and cooking and learn about the different varieties of ingredients and where they come from. Students also learn a range of preparation techniques.

“There is a whole world of information out there,” Granger says. “I am learning a lot about myself, too. I enjoy working with fruits and vegetables — chopping and sculpting — and I have a talent for blending ingredients. I have come to enjoy fusion cooking.”

Granger’s long-term goal is to open a restaurant called Alana Nichole’s Café and continue to expand Alana Nichole’s Catering, which she started after her layoff.

“At Hacienda I am learning how to be a successful business owner,” Granger says. “I now fully understand the world of culinary arts.”

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

GIVING STUDENTS THE JOB SKILLS THEY NEED

Hacienda La Puente Adult Education and Rowland Adult and Community Education offer career technical education (CTE) classes for students looking to learn a new skill set or improve upon previous training. CTE gives students access to job opportunities in growing fields by teaching them the necessary skills required to market themselves to employers in their chosen fields.

Students can choose from a wide variety of CTE classes including, HVAC repair, automotive repair, cosmetology, medical assistant training, dental assistant training, optical assistant training, child development courses and business career training. Financial aid may be available to those who apply. Visit www.hlpae.com/ and race.rowland.k12.ca.us/ for more information.

Career Opportunities

Man invests in self by attending adult school

BY MIKE BLOUNT



PHOTO BY SAL OCHOA

Raul Campos is working toward his HVAC certification at Rowland Adult and Community Education.

When 33-year-old Raul Campos starting working as a maintenance man for a packaging company in 2012, he knew he wanted to be there for a long time. He enjoyed the job, he loved the people that worked there and he could see a future with the company. But he also knew he needed to make himself more valuable to his employer if he wanted to move up.

After having a discussion with his supervisors, Campos decided to sign up for career technical education classes at Rowland Adult and Community Education. Campos is working toward a certification in repairing heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, which he hopes to complete this year. To reward his initiative, his company is paying for all of his books and learning materials.

“We’ve been outsourcing [HVAC repairs] and these classes are a great way for me to move up in the company, move into

something more permanent and make a little more money,” Campos says. “This is a career for me. I don’t have to think about what I’m going to do the rest of my life.”

Campos says the training is very hands-on. Instructors work directly with the students one-on-one to help them learn the ins and outs of HVAC repair. So far, Campos has learned how to completely disassemble an AC unit and put it back together.

He’s looking forward to being able to put his new training to use after he finishes the program. But for now he’s content to learn everything he can about his new field and is excited about the new opportunity in his future.

“This is the best investment you could ever make — investing in yourself,” Campos says. “Don’t hesitate. Just start immediately.”

A Healthy Career Choice

Hacienda La Puente helps train student for nursing

BY AMANDA CARAWAY

Hector Arce was at a car dealership when he struck up a random conversation with someone who had graduated from the nursing program at Hacienda La Puente Adult School and Continuing Education. Arce was working as a respiratory therapist and had considered transitioning into a nursing career. He decided to check out Hacienda’s program and liked what he saw.

“I have a friend who is studying nursing at a private school and his tuition is around \$20,000,” Arce says. “The tuition at Hacienda is affordable and the nursing program is really good.”

“We rely on each other like a family. This is a different experience than you find at a regular community college or university.”

Hector Arce, nursing student

One of Arce’s favorite aspects of Hacienda’s program is the teachers. They come to the school with a variety of experiences and each has a different background.

“All the teachers are great,” he says. “They all have different specialties. I love hearing their stories and learning from their experiences.”

Arce’s class has 26 students, each of whom began the program at the same time. At Hacienda the students don’t change classes. Instead, the teachers rotate into the different classes to teach the various subjects.

“The other students in class have become good friends,” Arce says. “We rely on each other like a family. This is a different experience than you find at a regular community college or university.”

Arce says he enjoys working in the medical field and likes the opportunity to help people. He is also drawn to the practical benefits of nursing such as the flexible hours and solid pay.

“As a nurse you make a difference in people’s lives right then and there,” Arce says. “I want to help people.”

Arce’s goal is to become a pediatric nurse in a hospital. He likes the fast-paced setting of a hospital as well as the team-oriented environment. He also likes working with kids. He recalls working with a child who had leukemia during his residency. The family didn’t speak English. Arce could tell the child was scared and the mother was confused.

“Although the kid didn’t understand my words, I used tone of voice and body language to calm him,” Arce says. “Soon he began smiling when I walked in the room and I was able to convince him to begin eating.”

Arce has completed his class work and is now waiting to take the State Board Exam. He is confident that the program has prepared him to do well.

“Hacienda is a great school and their passing rate is really high,” Arce says. “I would definitely recommend this program.”



PHOTO BY FRANK LEWIS

Hector Arce discovered a passion for helping children at the Hacienda La Puente nursing program. He is hoping to become a pediatric nurse.

The Language of Success

Woman driven to complete ESL program despite cancer diagnosis

BY MIKE BLOUNT

When Hong Truong came to the United States in 2011, she recalls how difficult it was to assimilate to American culture without being able to speak English. She couldn't understand what people were saying, and she couldn't tell them what she was thinking and feeling. But none of these things deterred Truong from trying to achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

The first thing Truong decided to do was enroll in an English as a Second Language (ESL) class at Hacienda La Puente Adult School and Continuing Education. The ESL program at Hacienda La Puente teaches classes in all levels of English, which allowed her to start becoming literate.

“In my mind, English is a second language for me today, but it is going to be my first language in the near future.”

Hong Truong

“For me, the school and the teachers here are wonderful,” Truong says. “I love them — especially Mrs. Esparza, who is very enthusiastic about teaching and is quite dynamic.”

While still enrolled in the program, Truong had to take a couple of weeks off due to being diagnosed with breast cancer. Despite this setback, Truong remained dedicated to achieving her goal — even coming to classes when she was receiving chemotherapy and radiation treatment.



PHOTO BY SALVADOR OCHOA

Hong Truong graduated from the ESL program at Hacienda La Puente Adult School on May 23, 2013.

She grew especially fond of her teacher Ditas Esparza during this time, who worked with Truong one-on-one to help her keep up with her studies. Even though she looked weak at times, Esparza says Truong never failed to smile when she was called to participate in class. Esparza believes that learning English energized Truong and kept her in good spirits.

“She uses her fervor in mastering the English language to overlook the physical pain and weakness she is experiencing every day,” Esparza says. “This young woman inspires me to be a better teacher. Every time I see her, I am driven to make every learning moment count.”

Just as she set out to do when she first arrived in this country, Truong graduated from the ESL program at Hacienda La Puente Adult School on May 23, 2013. For her exemplary dedication and perseverance, she received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award.

Today, she is working toward her goal of becoming a nurse.

“In my mind, English is a second language for me today, but it is going to be my first language in the near future,” Truong says.

PREPARED FOR CITIZENSHIP

Hacienda La Puente Adult School and Rowland Adult & Community Education help immigrants become naturalized U.S. citizens through the English as a Second Language (ESL) program and the Citizenship Preparation program. The ESL program helps students obtain the necessary language skills to pass the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) written exam and interview. The program has served more than 17,500 adults since 2001. Citizenship Preparation classes prepare applicants for the USCIS exam through a study of U.S. history, the Constitution and government. Students also learn how to apply for citizenship. An average of 14 students from the program succeed in passing the USCIS interview and becoming citizens each month. Registration for Citizenship Preparation class must be done in person and a valid permanent resident card is required. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Visit www.hlpae.com/esl.html or race.rowland.k12.ca.us for more information. **AC**

Program Gives Parents the Tools They Need

Mom found better way to communicate with daughter

BY CORRIE PELC

Last spring, Emily Sheen of Walnut realized she needed some parenting guidance for her 2-year-old daughter, Khloe.

Although this was Sheen's second child, she says both her daughters are complete opposites, and she found herself with some parenting frustrations. For example, Khloe was a much more active child than her older daughter had been. When Sheen would try to get Khloe to focus on a task such as drawing, she would lose interest very quickly and want to move on to something else. "She wouldn't last long — she was always on the go," Sheen adds.

"It really taught me a lot more on patience and knowing how to communicate with my child better."

Emily Sheen, Parent Education program participant

Sheen remembered a program she had taken in another city with her first daughter when she was younger that helped with child development and parenting skills. She decided to look for a similar program near her current home, and a neighbor referred her to the Parent Education program at Rowland Adult & Community Education.

Sheen says both she and her daughter attend the program twice a week for about three hours each morning. Both parent and child participate in circle and reading times, crafting and sharing. Sheen says she likes that her daughter is not only learning social skills, but education skills such as the alphabet



PHOTO BY FRANK LEWIS

Emily Sheen, left, and her daughter Khloe, right, both benefitted from the Parent Education program at Rowland ACE.

and numbers, which helps prepare her for preschool. "They are actually getting a head start compared to the other children that are not going through the program because they are learning more," she says.

Additionally, the class has helped Sheen work through some of the frustrations she had with her very active daughter. Sheen says that during the program's craft time Khloe's concentration has improved, and she can now independently finish a project on her own before moving on to something else.

However, the parents in the Parent Education program are just as much the students as the children. Sheen says parents learn a number of skills, such as child safety. "Especially for the first-time parent, I think it's wonderful because they actually teach the parents how to become a parent," she adds.

And while children are having play time, Sheen says the parents stay in the room, but move to the side to have a parent discussion. Sometimes they have a set topic to talk about, and other times they discuss an issue a parent may be facing.

Sheen says she has found the parent discussion portion of the program to be very helpful. "Sometimes I might be frustrated with something, and then I can [see another parent] is also having the same concerns," she explains. "We can discuss the topic and I can find a solution on how to resolve my frustration."

Having taken part in the Parent Education class for more than a year now, Sheen says the program has taught her tools for working with children as individuals. "When I talk to the teacher, she will give me a better direction on how to handle every situation," she explains. "So it really taught me a lot more on patience and knowing how to communicate with my child better."

And Sheen says the program has made her husband a better parent, too, even though he is unable to attend the classes. "All the information I brought back from the class, it actually makes both of us become better parents," she says.

PARENT EDUCATION THROUGH PARENT/CHILD PARTICIPATION

Parent education programs are usually an adults-only environment. However, both Hacienda La Puente Adult Education and Rowland Adult & Community Education take a unique approach with their Parent Education programs. Classes combine parents and children, allowing them to learn together.

Since 2001, more than 1,800 parents and 1,700 kids have

participated in the Parent Education program, which has parents attend and participate with their children in each class. Both take part in group activities, such as reading times, sharing and crafting, that help to stimulate child development and prepare young children socially and emotionally for kindergarten and beyond.

And during this time, parents are taught the practical infor-

mation and advice they need to be better moms and dads through participating in discussions with other parents and receiving guidance from Rowland's expert teaching staff.

This different approach not only gives parents and their children the instruction they each need individually, but allows them to form a deeper bond and communicate at a better level. [CP](#)

Enroll in a Class Today



You are never too old to get an education. But that is no reason to continue to wait. Whether you want to gain U.S. citizenship, get your GED, learn English or a foreign language, or even improve your golf swing, Hacienda La Puente Adult School and Rowland Adult and Community Education have what you are looking for. Visit our websites for a full list of the courses offered, or call one of our offices for more information.

HACIENDA LA PUENTE ADULT SCHOOL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION:

www.hlpae.com

Willow Center : (626) 934-2801

Dibble Campus: (626) 933-8305

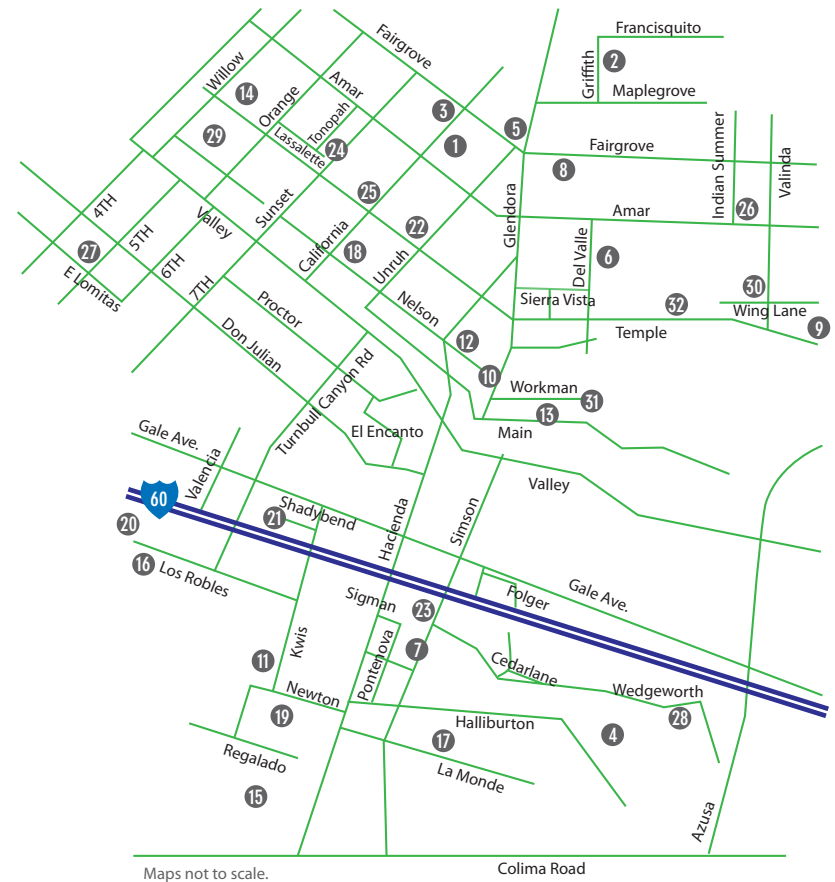
Hudson ALC: (626) 934-6761

ROWLAND ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION:

www.race.rowland.k12.ca.us

Main Office: (626) 965-5975

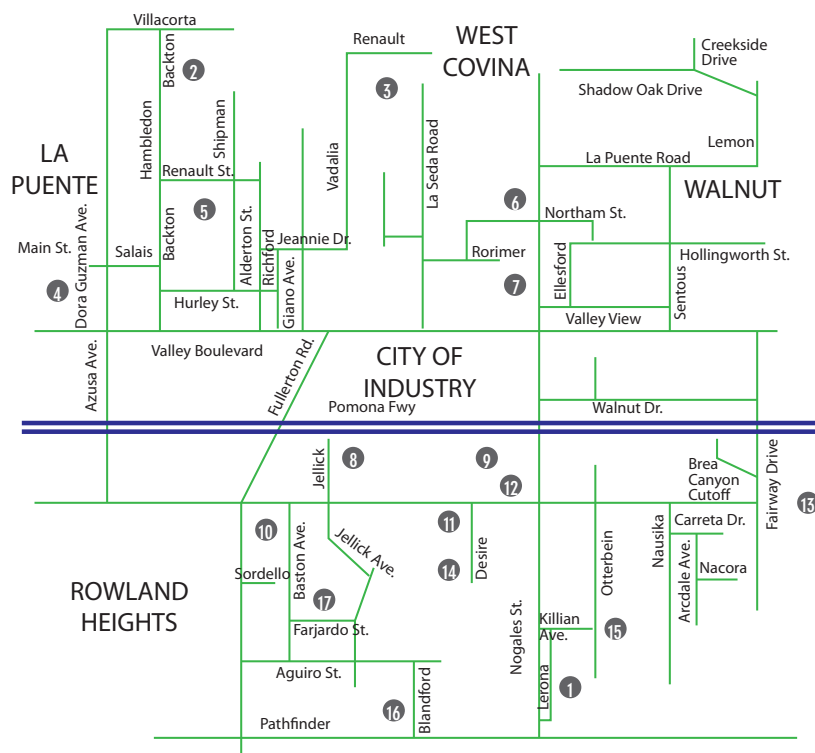
HACIENDA LA PUENTE ADULT EDUCATION



Maps not to scale.

Colima Road

ROWLAND ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION



1. ADULT EDUCATION CENTER (AEC1), 2100 Lerona Ave., Rowland Heights
2. ADULT EDUCATION CENTER (AEC2), Backlon and Gemini, La Puente
3. ALVARADO INTERMEDIATE, 1901 S. Desire Ave., Rowland Heights
4. BLANDFORD ELEMENTARY, 2601 S. Blandford Dr., Rowland Heights
5. FORMOSAN CHURCH, 18555 Farjardo St., Rowland Heights
6. HURLEY ELEMENTARY, 535 S. Dora Guzman Ave., La Puente
7. JELICK ELEMENTARY, 1400 Jellick St., Rowland Height
8. JOYFUL ADULT DAY CARE CENTER, 18951 E. Colima Road, Rowland Heights
9. LA SEDA ELEMENTARY, 341 S. La Seda Road, La Puente
10. NOGALES HIGH SCHOOL, 401 S. Nogales St., La Puente
11. NORTHAM ELEMENTARY, 17800 E. Renault, La Puente
12. RORIMER ELEMENTARY, 18750 E. Rorimer, La Puente
13. ROWLAND ELEMENTARY, 2036 E. Fullerton Road, Rowland Heights
14. ROWLAND HEIGHTS GOLF CENTER, 18927 Daisetta St., Rowland Heights
15. ROWLAND HIGH SCHOOL, 2000 S. Otterbein Ave., Rowland Heights
16. ROYAL VISTA COUNTRY CLUB, 20055 E. Colima Road, Walnut
17. VILLAS AT ROWLAND HEIGHTS, 18600 E. Colima Rad, Rowland Heights

1. AMAR CENTER, 1048 California, La Puente
2. BALDWIN ACADEMY, 1616 Griffith, La Puente
3. CALIFORNIA ELEMENTARY, 1111 California, La Puente
4. CEDARLANE ACADEMY, 16333 Cedarlane Dr., Hacienda Heights
5. DELHAVEN COMMUNITY CENTER, 15135 E. Fairgrove, La Puente
6. DEL VALLE ELEMENTARY, 801 N. Del Valle, La Puente
7. DIBBLE CAMPUS, 1600 Pontenova, Hacienda Heights
8. FAIRGROVE ACADEMY, 15540 E. Fairgrove, La Puente
9. GRANDVIEW COLLEGE PREP, 795 N. Grandview, Valinda
10. HUDSON ADULT LEARNING CENTER, 445 N. Glendora, La Puente
11. KWIS ELEMENTARY, 1925 S. Kwis, Hacienda Heights
12. LA PUENTE HIGH SCHOOL, 15615 E. Nelson, La Puente
13. LA PUENTE SENIOR CENTER, 16001 E. Main, La Puente
14. LASSALETTE ELEMENTARY, 14333 Lassalette, La Puente
15. LOS ALTOS ELEMENTARY, 15565 Los Altos Dr., Hacienda Heights
16. LOS ROBLES ACADEMY, 1530 Ridley Ave., Hacienda Heights
17. MESA ROBLES SCHOOL, 16060 Mesa Robles, Hacienda Heights
18. NELSON ELEMENTARY, 330 N. California Ave., La Puente
19. NEWTON MIDDLE SCHOOL, 15616 Newton St., Hacienda Heights
20. PALM ELEMENTARY, 14740 E. Palm, Hacienda Heights
21. SHADYBEND TRAINING CENTER, 15430 Shadybend, Hacienda Heights
22. SPARKS ELEMENTARY, 15151 Temple, La Puente
23. STEINMETZ SENIOR CENTER, 1545 Stimson, Hacienda Heights
24. SUNSET ELEMENTARY, 800 Tonopah Ave., La Puente
25. TEMPLE ACADEMY, 635 California, La Puente
26. VALINDA SCHOOL OF ACADEMICS, 1030 Indian Summer, La Puente
27. VALLEY ADULT CAMPUS, 14162 E. Lomitas Ave., La Puente
28. WEDGEWORTH ELEMENTARY, 16949 Wedgeworth, Hacienda Heights
29. WILLOW CENTER, 14101 E. Nelson, La Puente
30. WING LANE ELEMENTARY, 16605 Wing Lane, La Puente
31. WORKMAN ELEMENTARY, 16000 Workman, La Puente
32. WORKMAN HIGH SCHOOL, 16303 E. Temple, La Puente