



**PRESS RELEASE  
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## **RIVERSIDE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM TO INCREASE LITERACY AMONG NON-LITERATE LATINO ADULTS**

### **Selected to Expand Spanish literacy across California**

**JURUPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA (March 8, 2016)** – The Literacy Headquarters, located at the Louis Robidoux Library, has been selected as one of five libraries across California to pilot **Leamos™ (Let's Read) @ the Library**. Centro Latino for Literacy (Centro Latino), a nonprofit organization headquartered in Los Angeles, launched the project to bring its online literacy course to the state's non-literate Spanish speakers, which number 573,866 (2009-2011 ACS, PERE pooled file). The two-year pilot project is supported by a grant awarded by the James Irvine Foundation to Centro Latino to explore partnerships with public libraries. Greg Lucas, California State Librarian said, "In a state which in 2014 gained a Latino plurality, it seems at a minimum good common sense to encourage programs like *Leamos™*. Without literacy skills in their native language, proficiency in English becomes significantly harder, if not impossible to attain."

Public libraries will incorporate the use of *Leamos™* as an effective strategy to both promote reading at its most basic level and to effectively outreach to Spanish-speakers in their communities. "Public libraries are a natural ally in fulfilling our mission of creating innovative solutions that transform lives through literacy. **Leamos™ @ the Library** is the portal for non-literate Spanish speakers to close both the basic and digital literacy gaps and to increase civic engagement," stated Mari Riddle, Centro Latino President and CEO. "Learning to read and write is ground zero. Many students have described learning to read and write as being able to see after a lifetime of being blind – 'Ya tengo ojos (Now I have eyes)'".

With assistance from the Literacy Headquarters and the Riverside County Library System, local Spanish speakers who never had opportunity to attend school, will now be able to learn read and write in Spanish to give them the foundational skills and confidence to learn English, read with their children, gain better employment, and more fully engage in their communities. The program is free of charge. If you know someone who would benefit from the program or if you would like more information, please contact Olivia Trevino at 951-685-6901.

The Riverside County Library System is a division of the Riverside County Economic Development Agency. For more information, please contact the Riverside County Library System at (951) 369-3003 or visit [www.rivlib.net](http://www.rivlib.net).



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