

## **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Celinda L Dahlgren  
Director of Administration  
CCCTA, Concord, CA  
(925)676-1976 x 205  
[cdahlgren@cccta.org](mailto:cdahlgren@cccta.org)

Includes photos

### **County Connection Graduates Class of 12 “Amigos de Viajar”**

On February 24, twelve Spanish-speaking members of the community spent the day at Keller House in Concord learning about how to navigate the County Connection bus system, and how to communicate their knowledge to their friends and neighbors who use public transit.

These “Amigos de Viajar” (travel buddies) reviewed schedules, rider rules, and fare structures, and took a tour of a County Connection bus to see how the bicycle racks and wheelchair access equipment work. They participated in a role playing and trip planning exercise. At the end of the day, they received their official identification vests and a packet of information to assist them as they spread the word in their communities about the ease and convenience of using public transit.

The class was taught by Maria Portan and Cindy Dahlgren, County Connection staff, in both English and Spanish. Martha Potts of the Monument Community Partnership secured the use of Keller House for the all day training.

The training is part of a grant received by the County Connection from Caltrans under a federal Environmental Justice planning grant program, which also includes a series of meetings with the Hispanic Community in the Monument Corridor

neighborhood, and the development of a Spanish language video that was unveiled at the training. Copies of the video will be made available to schools, community groups, and the media to assist in educating the Spanish speaking community about taking advantage of the many benefits of using the County Connection.

For more information about the “Amigos de Viajar” program, or the County Connection Spanish language video, please call Cindy Dahlgren at (925) 676-1976 x 205, or send an email to [cdahlgren@cccta.org](mailto:cdahlgren@cccta.org).

The County Connection operates 31 fixed routes in central Contra Costa County. For route, fare, and schedule information, call (925) 676-7500, or visit the County Connection website at [www.cccta.org](http://www.cccta.org).



From left to right: Top Row: Joseph Cantor, Denise DeRamo, Ana Pearson, Gabriela Castaneda, Laura Puerto, Luz Keller. Seated: Brenda Puerto, Guiliana Nicoletti, Martha Nicoletti, Olga Puerto, Lucia Newcomer, Alondro Puerto.

Photo credit: Ryan Barton, Moore & Associates, Inc.



Amigos work on a trip plan at the February 24 training session.

Photo credit: Ryan Barton, Moore & Associates, Inc.



Cindy Dahlgren of County Connection demonstrates how to use a bus bike rack.

Photo Credit: Ryan Barton, Moore & Associates, Inc.