



# OTAN Online Connection

A Publication for Members of the Outreach and Technical Assistance Network

www.otan.us

## Citizenship, Census, and Community (Making Us Count!)

Winter 2020

### TDLs 2020 Coming Up!

This year, OTAN's Technology and Distance Learning Symposium will be in its hometown and California's capital, Sacramento! The two-day conference is March 6 and 7 at the Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center.

Integrating technology into adult education is a continuously adventurous effort. OTAN helps adult educators embrace that adventure by organizing TDLs with dynamic presentations and hands-on workshops. Experts in their fields present on a wide variety of technology topics, including implementing tech plans, devices to use, online learning tools and apps, and enhancing instruction using technology.

Visit [tdls.otan.us](http://tdls.otan.us) for information regarding registration, a draft schedule, and more!



### Inside This Issue:

- ★ Your Census Needs You!
- ★ Census 2020
- ★ Students Succeed Nominations

## STEP UP to 2020



**2**020 is going to be like climbing a staircase of 10,000 steps with three major events involving ESL, Civics, and Citizenship. Don't worry! We still have time to prepare to get in our steps!

### First is the 2020 U.S. Census. April 1 is National Census Day.

In mid-March, households will receive a form to participate in the 2020 Census, with three options for responding: online, by mail, or by phone. The printed Census form is available in 12 non-English languages. There are also 59 non-English language guides that explain the form. The go-to site is [2020Census.gov](http://2020Census.gov).



It is crucial that everyone—especially our adult learners—responds to the Census. It is vital for students to understand that the information we give is private. Ultimately, this information can change the number of our representatives in Congress and the money needed for our schools, roads, and social services.

In May, the Census Bureau begins following up with households that have not responded. In December, the Census Bureau delivers the Census count to the president.

### Second: Civics and voting

From February to June, each state will hold primaries and caucuses, followed by nominating conventions and debates. On Tuesday, No-

vember 3, citizens will vote for federal, state, and local officials and on proposed laws. To find voting information, start with the CA Secretary of State [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/) and civic groups that are organizing voting drives.



### Third: Citizenship

The fees related to Citizenship and immigration forms will increase (although no date for increases has been announced). Most fee-reduction petitions will no longer be accepted. The requirements for fee waivers have been increased. Also, in late 2020 or early 2021, USCIS will release a new set of 100 Civics and History questions. Watch [USCIS.gov](http://USCIS.gov) for the latest news.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

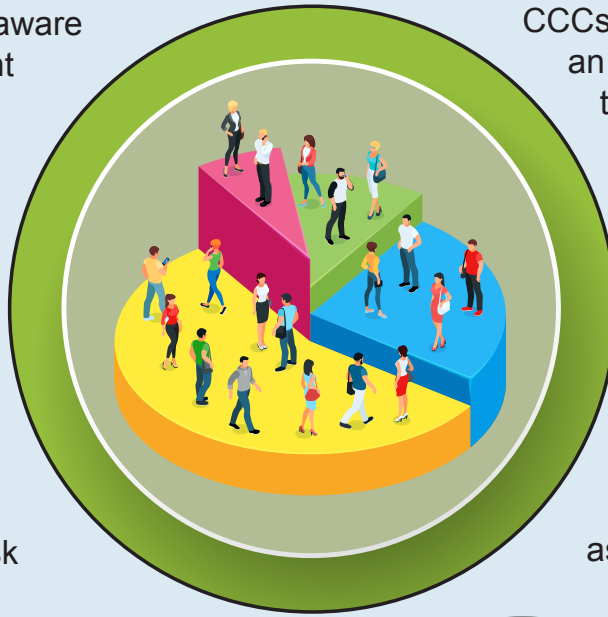
To prepare our students, warm up classes with current events. Teach some civics and history every day. Incorporate media literacy into lessons so students can make informed decisions. Also include financial literacy lessons to prepare for fee increases. As always, leverage tech to bring more resources into the classroom, thereby empowering students as future community leaders.

### Step up to 2020!

Submitted by  
Jennifer Gagliardi  
Milpitas Adult School

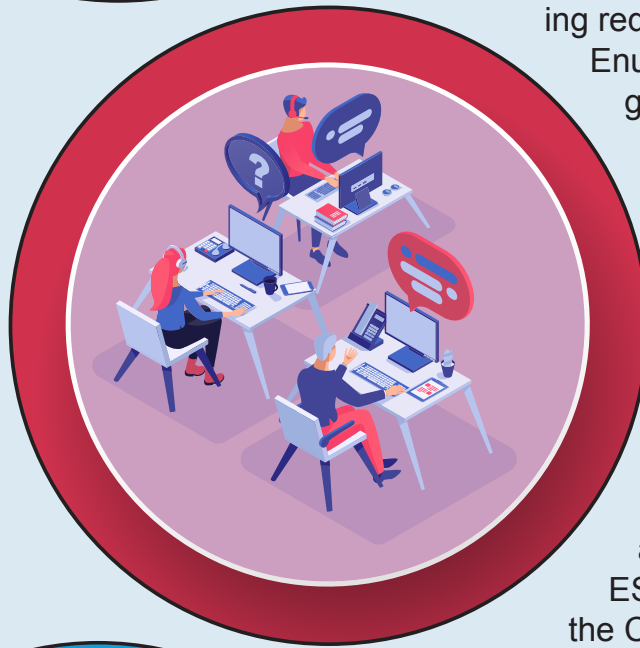
# Your Census Needs You!

**W**e should all be aware of how important an accurate census count is for California, and how great the likelihood of an undercount. Adult education is well-placed to make a positive impact, however, given that many whom we serve constitute populations most at risk of an undercount.



CCCs have sub-committees which include an Education and Outreach committee. The CCCs also have relatively easily accessed funding for projects aimed at increasing Census awareness and facilitating its implementation. These might include setting up a Questionnaire Assistance Center (QAC) or a Census Action Kiosk (CAK). The former provides information about the census, and the latter are locations where the public can receive assistance in completing the census.

VACE is also considering a funding request to run a Census Enumerator Skills program, utilizing the curriculum developed by John Werner's team, available on [caladulthood.org](http://caladulthood.org).



There are a number of ways adult schools can make that positive impact. At Ventura Adult and Continuing Education (VACE), our first involvement was participating in the Adult Education pilot initiative spearheaded by Neil Kelly from the Chancellor's Office to promote the census as an employment opportunity for students. We continue to do so by hosting monthly census employment workshops for the Census Bureau and having representatives address student assemblies. If the Bureau has not yet contacted you, reach out to them, as well as your local Complete Count Committee (CCC).

The CCC program is key to creating awareness in communities across the country. Typically, the



Finally, for WIOA II agencies, EL Civics provides a great opportunity to increase census awareness in our ESL population with the Census COAAP 54.1, which (by the way) is potentially triple-dollar federal payment point. Isn't that apt? 🌟

*Submitted by  
Steve Thompson, Assistant Principal  
Ventura Adult and Continuing Education*

# Census 2020 – What’s in it for Adult Education Students? Employ, Educate, and Empower!

Being involved in Census 2020 is an opportunity Corona-Norco Adult School (CNAS) has taken advantage of to **employ, educate, and empower** students and the community this school year.

First, ABE/ASE and CTE students were introduced to Census 2020 **employment** options via recruiting through social media advertisement in collaboration with CAEP and [censusoutreach.org](http://censusoutreach.org) in May 2019. By October, CNAS had 42 students who had shown interest in census-related jobs. These students were trained for the application and interview process through the Workforce Preparation classes funded by CAEP.

Second, by using EL Civics curriculum materials, about 1,800 ESL students were provided valuable **education** in the importance of getting counted and understanding their rights.

Finally, student leaders from the EL Civics classes are now part of the *Student Ambassadors* program.

Some of them will be part of the *Get Counted* campaign to present in all classrooms and public events to **empower** the community by handing out *Know Your Rights* cards and sharing the importance of getting counted to members in their families and communities.

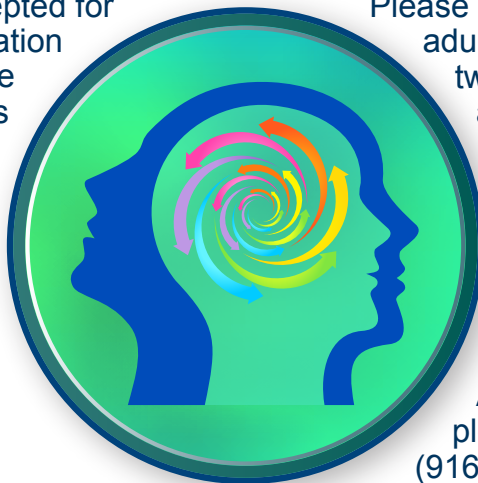
CNAS is also a member of the City of Corona’s *Complete Count Committee* and is hosting a meeting for the Riverside Metro Census stakeholders. An outreach lead is involved as well in the school district’s participation through which parents and kids in the community will be counted. By opening the CNAS computer labs for community members to use to complete their responses, where students and staff are volunteering to assist applicants, Corona-Norco Adult School is looking forward to its participation in Census Day. 🗳️

Submitted by  
Thoibi Rublaitus, Principal  
Corona-Norco Adult School



## Nominations for Students Succeed

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 California Adult Education Students Succeed program! We are looking for outstanding students who are adults with significant life responsibilities, who have made positive contributions to the community, established and met life goals by attending an adult education program, improved the life situations of self and others, and overcome difficult circumstances in order to pursue adult learning experiences.



Please consider nominating a deserving adult education learner. The top two nominees will be honored at ACSA’s Leadership Summit in November. This is also a wonderful opportunity to highlight the great work going on at your adult education agency! The Nomination Form is online at <https://adulthoodlearners.org/>. The deadline to submit is Wednesday, April 15. If you have any questions, please contact Anthony Burik at (916) 228-2357 or [aburik@otan.us](mailto:aburik@otan.us)



Carlada Thomas  
2019

Students Succeed Winner



Jesus Lopez-Varela  
2019

Students Succeed Winner



Wendy Samayoa  
2018

Students Succeed Winner



Patricia Holmes  
2018

Students Succeed Winner

## Techie's Tech Tip

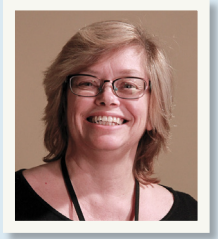
If you're anything like me, you might have six or seven tabs open on your web browser—maybe even more! In trying to switch tabs quickly, I inadvertently close the one I want to look at and get so flustered in the moment that it takes me twice as long to get back to the website I wanted to view.

To avoid this, just remember that you can press **CTRL+SHIFT+T** on a PC or Chromebook, or **CMD+SHIFT+T** on a Mac, to reopen the last closed tab. If you press that keystroke again, it will reopen the last closed tab before that, and so on! 🌐



## From the Adult Ed Director

What does the year 2020 mean to you? Looking back from the last decade to now, we see a shift resulting from the changes made in education and the expanded integration of educational technology. Think about how your agency contributes to your community and your students. As we identify what's needed to serve these diverse populations, we leverage resources to benefit our students and prepare them for change. What else can we do for our communities? Since this year starts a new decade with many opportunities, let's inform our students how they can make a difference. This year we will have a presidential election that will have a tremendous effect on our country. Teach about our government and elections. Help promote and secure the answers needed for the Census 2020. Teach about its importance and the effects that will last for the next decade. In this issue, you can find resources to help. Make this year memorable with important lessons that engage our students. For additional ideas and tools please go to our website, [otan.us](http://otan.us) 🌐



*Diana Batista*  
Adult Education Director



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