

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 21-114

Proclaiming September 2021 as Literacy Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Yolo County has a tradition of commitment to literacy and lifelong learning; Yolo County Library invites you to celebrate Literacy month and the 37th Anniversary of Public Libraries' Literacy Programs in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, literacy is a set of skills that includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, and critical thinking, whose mastery enables individuals to contribute to our economy, democracy, and community; and

WHEREAS, adult learners are our co-workers, neighbors, friends, and family members; and

WHEREAS, over 35,000 of our Yolo County residents, or one in six adults, cannot read or write sufficiently to carry out everyday activities; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads, the Yolo County Library literacy program, offers free one-on-one tutoring and English Conversation groups for local residents. During FY 2020-2021, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Yolo Reads volunteer tutors provided 1,800 hours of free literacy instruction to 35 Yolo County adult learners to help them improve their reading, writing, spelling, math, and grammar skills; and

WHEREAS, among the life skills goals accomplished by Yolo Reads' adult learners, 1 passed their citizenship test; 3 found full-time employment; 3 enrolled in Woodland Community College; and, overall, adult learners completed over 80 goals they set during FY 2020-2021; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads is a community of lifelong learners their families and tutors building a better future and coming together to celebrate their achievements each September; and

WHEREAS, Yolo Reads tutors and learners report significant gains in helping children succeed in school and achieve early literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, one Yolo Reads learner noted, "I read and write better because I meet with my tutor regularly. I find writing short stories every week improves my ability to communicate. Yolo Reads is helping my entire family."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors proclaims September as Literacy Awareness Month.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28th day of September, 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: Barajas, Villegas, Saylor, Sandy, Provenza.

Jim Provenza, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors