

Just Arrived!



COMMUNITY JOURNAL

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Confidence and Connections™ was designed to develop English skills and foster meaningful connections across cultures.

It's All About **Confidence and Connections**



Leanne Chacón

Volunteer Manager and one of the writers of *Confidence and Connections*

This fall Intercambio is launching its new English curriculum, *Confidence and Connections*.

Executive Director, Lee Shainis, established a vision for the new curriculum to **“spark conversations that enable students and teachers to share experiences and perspectives.”** In this spirit, *Confidence and Connections* is seamlessly aligned with Intercambio’s strategic mission to **“ignite human potential by cultivating a world where people from different backgrounds connect, communicate and engage.”**

Many important features have been added to the new series. Every lesson includes pronunciation activities and a two-way learning “Culture Tip,” opening the door for discussion and cultural exchange. As students and teachers get to know each other, cultural understanding, friendships, and trust are cemented. A “Connect with

Conversation” section at the end of each lesson facilitates students’ review of the words, phrases and structures from the lesson, as well as previous lessons.

The new curriculum includes a measurable progress check every seven lessons as a way to measure students’ English language acquisition. In addition, a new evaluation tool is being developed to gauge how learning English, gaining confidence and making connections is having a ripple effect on students’ personal and professional lives, as well as their children and the greater community.

The *Confidence and Connections* teacher books were developed with a single goal in mind: **teaching made easy.** With the student book embedded into the teacher book it will be even easier for volunteer teachers to prepare for class. The goals for each lesson are clearly spelled out. Within each lesson, there are short “callouts” that provide succinct notes about how to teach the activities. In the back of the teacher book, there are bonus training pages for teachers who want to learn more about how to

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Trained as an industrial engineer, Daniella moved from Venezuela to Colorado three years ago to create a better life for her family. With limited English language skills and a lack of U.S. work experience, Daniella describes her search for a career in her field as **"difficult, if not impossible"** when she arrived.

After hearing about Intercambio from a friend, Daniella decided to try a class with Intercambio. Her goal was to improve her English and get a job in her field, and **after one class she was in love with the program**. Daniella began as a Level 4 student and quickly committed herself to studying hard and completed Level 7 in less than three years.

Daniella remembers one particularly important connection made through Intercambio at a *Conversation Team* activity.

Each term, one-time volunteers join with students in small groups for dialog and English practice. This *Conversation Team* replaces regular lessons for one

Conversation Teams OPEN DOORS!



Daniella and her two kids.

class per term. Volunteers learn more about the immigrant experience, **and everyone has the opportunity to connect, communicate and engage** with someone outside their day-to-day community.

Daniella recently, at Conversation Team, met a person who worked at an engineering company. Within a few months, Daniella was hired by his company, and back working in her profession. Daniella says, **"Intercambio can open opportunities!"**

Conversation Team - 2018-2019

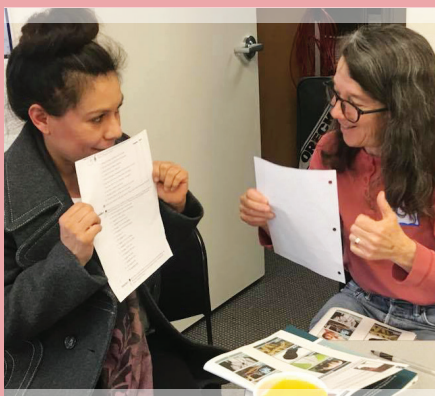
689 students participated

399 one-time volunteers participated

72% of volunteers report a change six months later: they have learned more about the immigrant experience and challenges of learning English or they have become further involved in the immigrant community since attending the event.

Sign up for an upcoming Conversation Team activity at intercambio.org/cteam

Volunteering & Giving TO COUNTERACT DIVISIVENESS!



Kris, right, and one of her Level 3 students in our Longmont office.

The 2016 election outcomes spurred Kris King to volunteer with Intercambio. **"I felt like I had to do something to counteract all the divisiveness,"** Kris says. More than two years later, Kris reflects on how teaching with

Intercambio has impacted her views and her life in the community.

Kris feels that teaching with Intercambio is not only an important act of serving her community, but is also incredibly rewarding and a lot of fun. She says, **"It's**

inspiring to see. Watching students gain self-confidence. . . those moments are very rewarding. I go home with more energy than I come in with after every class."

In addition to volunteering her time, Kris also supports Intercambio financially. She says, **"I am very careful where I give money. . . watching Intercambio from the inside, and experience how they engage with volunteers. . . this is a worthy place to donate my money."**

By generously giving both her time and money to Intercambio, Kris is having a positive impact on our community. *Thank you, Kris!*

**Volunteering
& Giving
2018-2019**

331 volunteers
taught with Intercambio
824 individual donors contributed
\$524,422



The goal of the new English curriculum is to help adult students achieve their own goals.

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improve their teaching.

This new curriculum was conceived, developed, and implemented by Intercambio staff with outside support. The deep understanding the staff has for both students and teachers, along with their extensive experience in ESL education, made them the perfect team to deliver on the organization's vision.



Staff members proudly present the new covers of *Confidence and Connections*.



For a preview of both a student and teacher books, visit [Interchange.org/preview](https://intercambio.org/preview)

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Register at [Interchange.org/bts](https://intercambio.org/bts)



Join the **Scholarship Club**
and make a monthly
donation at [Interchange.org/donate](https://intercambio.org/donate)



Supports Intercambio with \$80,000 Donation

Elevations Credit Union is proud to announce a donation of \$80,000 to support Intercambio's new curriculum, *Confidence and Connections*. The curriculum provides adult English learners with a safe place to practice and gain confidence, while inspiring new relationships for students and teachers by sharing stories and perspectives with each other.

This capitalized project is budgeted at \$225,000, and when Intercambio brought this need to Elevations, the credit union stepped up. Jenny Desmond, Director of Development for Intercambio says, **"Generous donations like this help Intercambio accomplish big goals on a shoestring budget. Thank you, Elevations, for your commitment to Intercambio's sustainability!"**

As a local, member-owned financial institution, Elevations is known for the good work it does in the community. **"Intercambio is a leader in connecting immigrants in the community. We are thrilled to support such an important community asset,"** said Dennis Paul, VP of Community Affairs for Elevations Credit Union.



Elevations Credit Union staff participated in a Conversation Team activity with students from a Level 6B class in Longmont.

Double your impact!

Matching Opportunity during
August and September ONLY



Monthly Sustainers Equals **BETTER STUDENT ATENDANCE**

Most Intercambio students pay \$25 per term, and we offer scholarships based on need and merit. The perfect attendance scholarship awards students who attend all class sessions with a free course the following term.

*Daniel is someone who works hard for this scholarship. Last year, **he received a perfect attendance scholarship all four terms.** He achieved this while bringing his young daughter to our onsite childcare!*

*The **Scholarship Club** is a monthly giving program that subsidizes these scholarships and other Intercambio needs. Last year **more than 270 students** received a merit- or needs-based scholarship.*

*Would you support students like Daniel? **Join the Scholarship Club in August or September and your first 12 donations will be doubled**, thanks to a generous Intercambio donor.*



Join the **Scholarship Club**
and make a monthly
donation at
Intercombio.org/donate



New Faces at Intercambio!

This summer we hosted an amazing group of interns, a Fulbright Scholar and Workforce Participants who contributed over \$23,170 of work on the curriculum with minimal cost to Intercambio.

*We also welcomed three new board members who bring experience relevant to the focus of our new strategic plan: **to accelerate the scaled adoption of the Intercambio model and increase organizational sustainability.***

To learn more, read the article at Intercombio.org/newfaces

