

Internet and Technology Training for EL Parents

Not just a computer class:

- Parents are empowered to have direct communication with teachers, principals and personnel from the district,
- Training and access to online resources purely for the development and benefit of our children,
- Growing community through continuous contact via online communication resources.

Fifty percent (50%) of those trained by NIU, come in not having email addresses.

Imagine not having an email address in today's times.

What are you NOT doing? What information are you NOT seeing?

A parent is literally "engaged disabled" without it in today's 21st century environment.

Thought Leader
Technology and Parent Advocate

One Million NIU

Training from the convenience of your school site computer lab

One Million NIU

Closing the "engagement-gap" between EL parents, students and schools through technology





Leadership and Vision

NIU's Founder, Larry A. Ortega, has been a key leader in community-based Internet training for 22 years and in Information Technology for 33 years. A law school drop-out, Mr. Ortega decided the road to becoming a superior court justice had nothing to do with his true purpose in life.

In 1993, with a mustard seed-sized budget, Larry launched a set of technology courses for youth attending the Boys and Girls Club in Pomona, CA. Youth attending, what was then the Educational Enhancement Program, were on their last leg at Fremont Middle School. Not even in regular classes at the middle school, these young men found inspiration and built a vision working with Larry. Mr. Ortega would later find-out that one of the students turned his grades around and got back into the regular program at Fremont, going on to represent his school in a robotics competition held in Washington D.C.

It was at that point NIU's Founder knew he had something powerful. Matching technology with community needs. This matching process was nothing new to Mr. Ortega, as he had earned recognition from Rockwell International in 1986 for automating processes, saving the company tens of thousands of dollars in man-hours annually.

Why Parents? Why EL parents in particular?

As his students left the door from his class, Mr. Ortega found that they also left their vision (dreams) there too. Mom and dad prominently would shock them into reality: "We CANNOT afford a computer..." It was at that point Larry realized he needed to get mom and dad on board with this technology revolution and soon began offering courses in Spanish. It took off like wild fire. Adults from as far down as San Diego were driving up on Saturday mornings to take unprecedented technology courses in Spanish, in Pomona.

Making the front page of La Opinion in 1997 created quite a fervor for the courses, far out-stripping Mr. Ortega's capacity. Some corporate sponsors got it, but few were willing to make the investment to get the Spanish-speaking Latino community up to speed in this country's technology explosion.

Nonetheless, this was a mere 12ft obstacle of the many 12ft obstacles Mr. Ortega had to overcome...that year. Relentless and passionate for his work with community, he pushed ahead opening 100's of technology training centers in partnership with schools throughout California, serving thousands of parents, while positively impacting and inspiring youth to reach for and attain their dreams.



School leaders, Media

In 2011 Larry founded One Million NIU, setting a goal to touch one million people with the message that **the utilization of on-line resources promises improved quality of life for parents and their families.** At the close of March 2015, NIU had touched over 7.5 million people with their message. Partner schools in Santa Ana and Pomona Unified School Districts had achieved unprecedented high school graduation rates. Parents graduating from NIU courses were themselves moving on to become NIU Trainers.

And now with over 45 NIU team members training in the field throughout the greater Los Angeles and Orange County regions, thousands of parents every year are getting the tools they need to better engage in their child's education.

Univision, Telemundo, La Opinion, ABC7, and scores of local newspapers in and around the southern California region, have highlighted the success parents are achieving in the NIU courses, of whom 80% are EL parents/grandparents.

Superintendents, school board members, principals, and parent leaders all recognize the value of NIU and have led Mr. Ortega to conclude: Internet access and training for parents is the baseline start-point. How can our children achieve without parents possessing and navigating one of the most basic tools of our times, the Internet?

Contact Us

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