

**New Brunswick Free Public Library &
The Conversation Tree: Community-Based Language Partnerships**
Professional Development Summer 2017 Opportunity

New Brunswick Free Public Library (NBFPL) in collaboration with The Conversation Tree is providing a Professional Development (PD) opportunity for participants interested in learning how to support adult learners of various languages (English, Spanish, or Mandarin) in the *Conversation Café*. **Space is limited. If interested, please e-mail trotolo@gse.rutgers.edu to confirm your attendance.**

What is the Conversation Café?

The Conversation Café is a conversation group for emerging bilinguals or multilinguals. Community participants engage in one-on-one or small-group conversations. Free-flowing conversation includes language features and topics of interest to community members. In this safe setting, adult learners experience the spontaneity of real-world conversation while polishing their second language knowledge and skills. In Summer 2017, The Conversation Tree plans to provide one Conversation Café in English in collaboration with New Brunswick Free Public Library and one in Spanish in collaboration with Youth Empowerment Services (YES).

What does a Conversation Facilitator do?

Conversation facilitators sit at tables with groups of 2 - 4 adult learners and create space for all participants to contribute in conversation. They review activity and session plans prior to each meeting of the Conversation Café and come prepared to facilitate the activities. Conversation facilitators practice conscious listening as they learn about community members' lives and share their own.

What does the Professional Development entail?

Participation in the Conversation Café as a facilitator includes three components: (1) an orientation; (2) a preparation session; and (3) eight weeks of facilitation practice in the Friday NBFPL English Conversation Café or the Monday YES Spanish Conversation Café. Mandarin conversation facilitators will have an opportunity to serve in the Fall 2017 Wednesday Rutgers Mandarin Conversation Café. The orientation and preparation session will be provided in English, but facilitators will be given opportunities to break into smaller language groups (English, Spanish, and Mandarin) for discussion. During the Conversation Café, conversation facilitators will work with a group of 2 - 4 adult learners. The Conversation Tree staff will be onsite during the Conversation Café to provide support and feedback. **A Certificate of Participation will be given to conversation facilitators who complete the Professional Development series.**

The schedule for Summer 2017 follows:

		Dates	PD Hours
Component 1	Orientation	June 2 nd (11:30am – 1:00pm)	1.5 hours
Component 2	Onsite Preparation	June 9 th (10:30am – 1:00pm)	2.5 hours
Component 3	8 Weeks Facilitation Practice in English or Spanish Conversation Café	Weeks of: June 12, 19, 26* July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 August 7	2 hours/week (Spanish CC - Monday Nights) 2.5 hours/week (English CC - Friday Mornings) 16 - 20 hours total
		Total Hours of PD	20 - 24 hours

* no Spanish CC meeting

Event	Description
Component 1 Orientation (1.5 hours)	Conversation facilitators attend an orientation which provides a primer on second language acquisition and an introduction to strategies and techniques available to Conversation Café facilitators.
Component 2 Onsite Preparation (2.5 hours)	Conversation facilitators attend a session in preparation for the Conversation Café. Preparation includes discussion of strategies and techniques used in conversation facilitation followed by familiarization with the session plan and goals for the first meeting of the Conversation Café.
Component 3 Facilitation Practice in the Conversation Café with Onsite Support (2.5 hours/week for 8 weeks)	Each week, conversation facilitators arrive 15 - 30 minutes prior to the start of the Conversation Café to review the session plan and set up the room and materials. Debrief with conversation facilitators and room clean-up occurs in the final 15 - 30 minutes. Conversation facilitators participate in conversation with small groups of 2- 4 community members with support provided from staff members from The Conversation Tree.

Professional Development is provided by **The Conversation Tree: Community-Based Language Partnerships**, a program created by Rutgers Graduate School of Education and The Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research & Service.

