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Computer truck lab unveiled; first stop is Greenfield

TechMobile to narrow digital divide in Monterey County

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A mobile classroom aimed at providing free [computer](#) and digital training to underserved members of communities in Monterey County was unveiled today.

It's part of Community Connection, a program of the Central Coast Broadband Consortium Public [Computing](#) Alliance, and is funded from a \$3.9 million federal grant from the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) under the U.S. Department of Commerce, said Arlene Krebs, director of Wireless Education and Technology at Californian State University, Monterey Bay.

CSUMB is one of seven partners in the consortium which includes the Monterey County Office of [Education](#), Hartnell College, Monterey County Free Libraries, Boys and Girls Clubs for Monterey County, the Community Information Center and the National Steinbeck Center.

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The county Board of Supervisors put its stamp of approval on Internet literacy when they approved a resolution Tuesday to join a program called Get Connected, a statewide effort by the California Emerging [Technology](#) Fund.

The 65-foot TechMobile is a converted semi-trailer that comes with high-speed Internet workstations, a green screen, a student common area, a [compact](#) audio recording booth and an awning-covered outdoor meeting space. It has the ability to

accommodate up to 20 students.

Instructors will train participants and classes are offered in English, Spanish and some Oaxacan languages.

The purpose of the TechMobile is to reach rural areas where Internet access and online skills may be limited.

The following is the TechMobile's tour schedule:

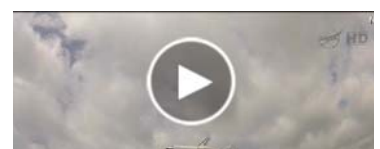
- Today: At 3:30 p.m., Monterey County Free Libraries, 315 El Camino Real, Greenfield.
- Wednesday: From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Soledad High School, 425 Gabilan Drive, Soledad.
- Thursday: From 6-8 p.m., Juntos Podemos Community Forum,

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· Friday: At 4 p.m., Boys and Girls Club of Monterey County, 1332 LaSalle Ave., Seaside.

· Saturday: At 2 p.m., Marina Teen Center, 304-B Hillcrest Ave., Marina.

· Oct. 2: From 3:30-5 p.m., Monterey County Free Libraries, 402 Broadway, King City.

· Oct. 4: From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Chinatown Community Learning Center, 22 Soledad St., Salinas.

· Oct. 4: At 5 p.m., Monterey County Free Libraries, 11160 Speeple St., Castroville.

Info: Visit connectionmonterey.org or call 831-755-0389.

- Sunita Vijayan, svijayan@thecalifornian.com



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