

# CLAS 1: START Training Program - Danbury

## April 17, 2009



Spanish American Merchants Association (SAMA) will graduate its first Danbury area bilingual computer training class for small business owners on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 11:00am at the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce. The STAR Program, funded by the United States Small Business Administration, provides fundamental business skills training such as business management, insurance, basic record keeping and computer skills. Ten Danbury area small business entrepreneurs have received basic computer training that includes Microsoft Word, as well as training on the QuickBooks financial management program. The STAR Program is intended for merchants who lack sophistication and understanding of the complexities of today's ever changing business environment and who have fallen behind the technological gap. The STAR Program is a unique concept which brings technical assistance and resources that have been lacking from other state or local programs to a specific ethnic merchant group.

Congratulations, to the first Danbury graduating class from the SAMA Star Program hosted at the Danbury Chamber of Commerce. This class, taught by Jobana Maldonado, ran for ten weeks and provided students basic accounting skills and QuickBooks training in a bilingual format. Special thanks to the U.S. Small Business Administration, The Literacy Volunteers – Danbury, Inc., Danbury Chamber of Commerce, Raquel Kennedy Consulting, and Alfredo Sarabia.

Graduates: Roxana López & Nelson Lopez-Milano Gourmet Deli, Carmen Rivera & Wilson Hernandez-Colonial Carpet & Flooring, Adolfo Pérez-Miss T Deli Diner, Nelson Merchan-Ciclo, LLC, Melissa Minchala-Michael One Stop, Maria & Manuel Lema-Tienda Variante Ecuatoriana, LLC, Luis Clauvijo-Lecla Roofing, LLC

Dignataries: Ana Sanchez-Adorno, Training Director-SAMA, Frank Alvarado-Director-SAMA, Norma Rodriguez-Reyes-La Voz Hispana, Bernard Sweneey-District Director-SBA, Raquel Kennedy, Consultant, Mayor Mark Boughton-Danbury, Fernando Rosa-Hedco, Julio Mendoza-SAMA, Alfredo Sarabia, Julio Casiano-Business Dev. Specialist-SBA, Jobana Maldonado-Instructor-SAMA, Stephen Bull, Director Danbury Chamber of Commerce

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Alfredo Sarabia & Maria Lema

