

Trainer Profile

Ramon Garcia

BBRI Trainer Gives Back



Ramon Garcia at the Instructor Training.

Ramon Garcia has had a passion for technology from the time when he would tinker with video production equipment and color television components as a school-age child. Technology has afforded Garcia the opportunity as an adult to travel throughout Latin America and Europe as a paid computer trainer, and so he sees his willingness to take on numerous Broadband RI volunteer projects at home as a form of paying it forward.

"I like to share my knowledge, particularly if it helps people do their job better or improve their life or give them some other satisfaction," says Garcia. "The adage says that we all have something to teach and something to learn."

Garcia serves as an ideal fit for a BBRI trainer who can successfully familiarize underserved groups with the digital world's vast potential to better their lives. Yet his vast background as a trainer in corporate and nonprofit settings, both in the U.S. and abroad, might actually constitute his second most important qualification for having an impact on adult learners.

That's because he freely admits that even with his exemplary résumé for serving as a digital literacy trainer, "I don't have a serious bone in my body," and he easily transitions to a lighthearted, personable approach to demystify the Internet. A visitor to his class might witness him feigning horror in front of his students as he purposely drops a mouse on the floor, as he emphasizes to newcomers that technology doesn't have to be feared and equipment doesn't have to be babied.

"I use a lot of humor," says Garcia, who lived in Mexico as a young child and moved from the West Coast of the U.S. to Rhode Island 13 years ago. "When my students see others using their computers, they think it's something sophisticated. I ask them, 'What do you think they're doing? They're doing what you're doing here—playing with Windows.'"

(Ramon Garcia profile continued)



Ramon Garcia leading a practice digital literacy training during the instructor training session.

Garcia wants his students to develop the same inquisitiveness about computers and the Internet that made him a self-taught “geek,” in his words, who can now share his knowledge with others.

He celebrates small victories in the classroom, such as when a student expresses feeling more comfortable after having mastered a couple of skills. “I really like it when they can come back and say they were able to one-up their kids, because they now know a shortcut I showed them that many people don’t use,” Garcia says. “This gives them a little empowerment.”

Garcia has been working with BBRI since 2011, at the time that the digital literacy curriculum was entering its pilot implementation phase. He assisted in the initial delivery and testing of the curriculum as materials were updated and new visuals were added to enhance the learning process.

In past roles in his career, he has offered computer training to corporate employees and clients, and over the past four years he has served as a freelance consultant in diverse training settings. His bilingual skills allow him to conduct trainings in both English and Spanish.

“I’ve been fortunate, and this is a way to give back,” he says of his BBRI projects. “Maybe the people I help can use it, or maybe they can in turn help others.”