Chicana/o and Latina/o Educational Pipeline

2000 US Census
The Puente Project
The Puente Project
Bridging Classrooms and Communities
Since 1981
The Puente Project: Our Mission

To increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who:

- Enroll in four-year colleges and universities
- Earn college degrees
- Return to the community as leaders and mentors
Who We Serve

• Puente serves 63,000 students each year—7,000 of them directly as Puente students, others through Puente training
• 58 community colleges
• 34 high schools
The Puente Project is..

- Accelerated writing instruction
- Sustained academic counseling until transfer
- Mentoring and community involvement
- Personal Development class
The Puente Model: Three Components

Counseling

Writing

Mentoring
Puente Counselor

- Teaches the Personal Development Course.
- Motivates students to further their education.
- Develops student academic plans and monitors their progress.
- Meets regularly with students.
- Develops and maintains relationships with four-year transfer institutions.
- Organizes college visits and educational/cultural field trips.
- Co-coordinates program team activities.
Puente English Instructor

- Process-centered writing
- Teaches same cohort from pre-transfer level composition course to English 1A transfer level composition course
- Incorporates Chicano/Latino and other multicultural authors, experiences, and issues
- Community-based and mentor writing assignments
- Shared assignments with Personal Development course
- Co-coordinates Program team activities
Puente Mentors

- Members of the professional community who are recruited, trained, and matched with students.
- Mentors who share with students career advice and their personal experiences of integrating culture and family with academic and professional success.
Additional Benefits to Community College Students

- Inclusion of family into educational experiences
- Exposure to leadership and volunteer opportunities
- UC-eligible and transfer-ready students
- Accelerated transfer rate (2-3 years)
- UC application recognition enhancement
- Participation in annual Community College Transfer Motivational Conference
Community College Program
Transfer Rate to Four-year Colleges and Universities
2001-2006

- 30.6%
- 40.7%
- 52.7%

Source: California Community College Chancellor’s Office, National Student Clearinghouse, Puente Project
*Category includes all CCC African-American, all CCC American Indian, and all CCC Hispanic students statewide.
Puente *Does* Make A Difference!
¡Sí Se Puede!   Yes We Can!
Community Cultural Wealth

**Resistant Capital**: Challenging inequity and subordination

**Navigational Capital**: Maneuvering social institutions

**Social Capital**: Networks and community resources

**Linguistic Capital**: Communications in different languages or styles

**Familial Capital**: Cultural and/or family knowledges and history

**Aspirational Capital**: Aspirations and hope despite challenges