

# Puente Program



# The Puente Program

Bridging Classrooms and  
Communities  
Since 1981

# The Puente Program: Our Mission

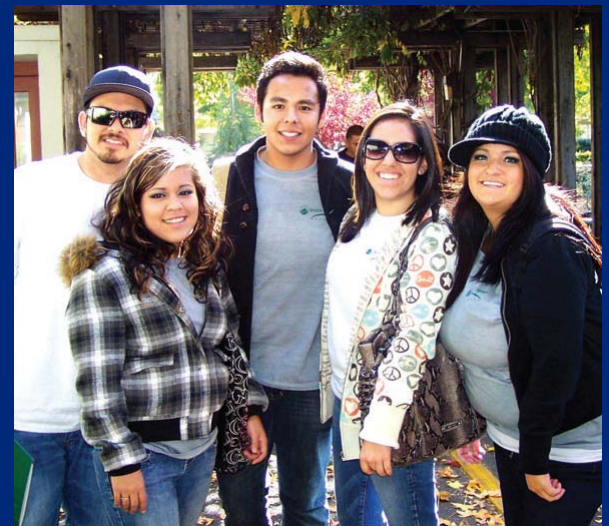
To increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who:

- 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
- 59 community colleges
- 33 high schools



# The Puente Program is..

- Accelerated writing instruction
- Sustained academic counseling until transfer
- Mentoring and community involvement
- Personal Development class

# The Puente Model: Three Components



Counseling

Writing



Mentoring



# The Puente Model: Counseling



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





# The Puente Model: Writing

Counseling

Writing

Mentoring



# Puente English Instructor

- Process-centered writing
- Teaches same cohort from pre-transfer level composition course (English 190) 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



# The Puente Model: Mentoring

Counseling

Writing

Mentoring



# 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



# Bringing it all together . . .



Counseling

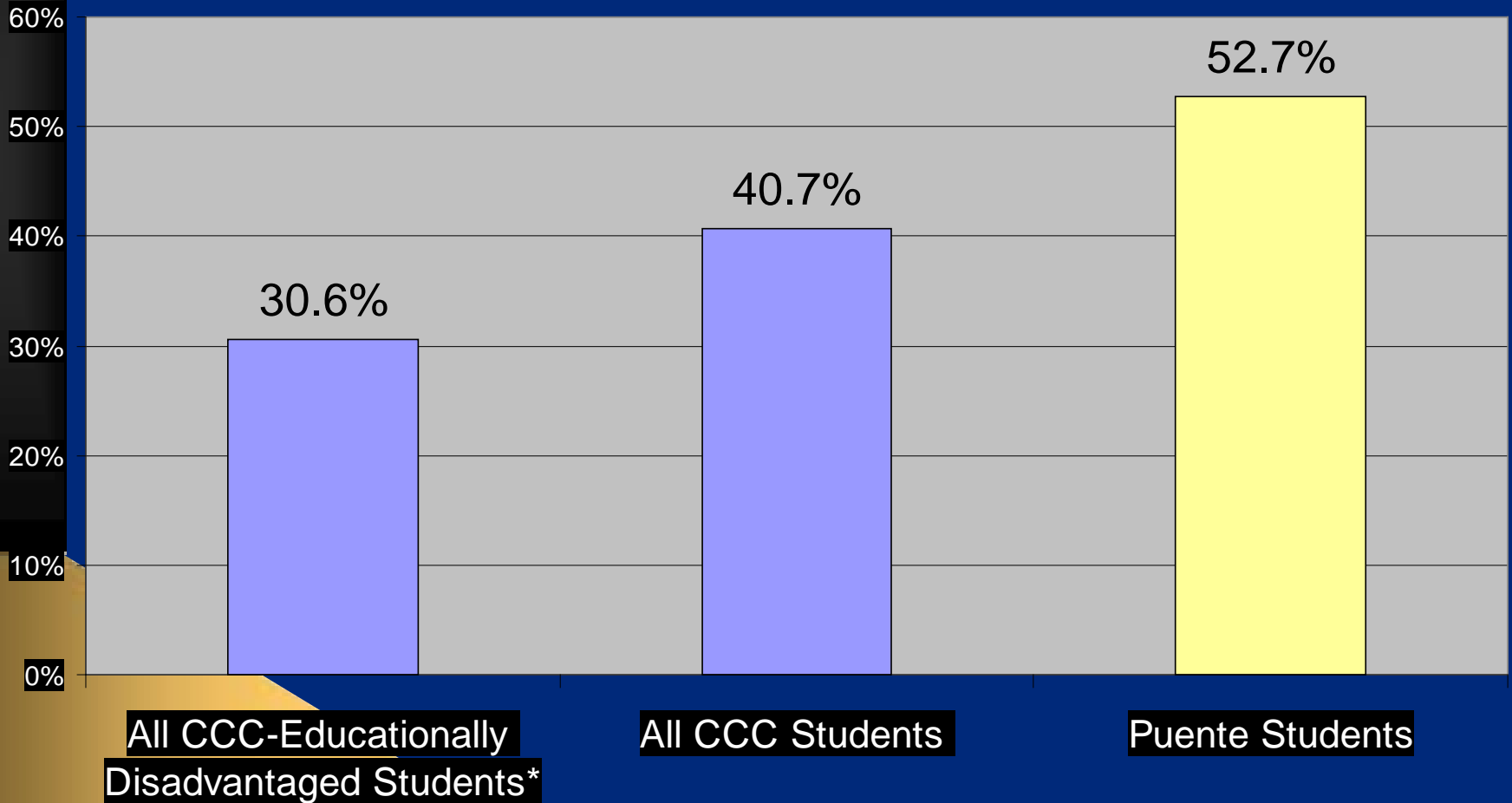
Writing



Mentoring



# Community College Program Transfer Rate to Four-year Colleges and Universities 2001-2006



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.



# ¡Sí Se Puede! Yes We Can!

