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
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

- 30.6%
- 40.7%
- 52.7%

All CCC-Educationally Disadvantaged Students*
All CCC Students
Puente Students

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!