FOR MORE INFORMATION…

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The Puente Project  
At  
Chaffey Community College  

Chaffey College  
5885 Haven Ave.  
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91737
**PUENTE PROJECT HISTORY**

Puente was founded in 1981 by the Co-Directors, Felix Galaviz and Patricia McGrath, at Chabot College in Hayward. The program mission was to increase the number of Mexican American/Latino students transferring to four-year colleges and universities. Since then, Puente has expanded to 38 community colleges throughout the state. As an outgrowth of its success as a community college program, Puente piloted a high school version of its program in 1993 that is now operational in 18 high schools throughout the state. Puente is open to all students.

**PUENTE STUDENTS**

- Succeed academically
- Are recognized as leaders and scholars
- Graduate from four-year colleges and universities
- Belong to a statewide network of leaders and professionals

**THE PUENTE PROGRAM**

Many components work together to prepare Puente students to transfer to four-year colleges and universities:

**ENGLISH INSTRUCTION.** Puente students take two consecutive writing classes, English 450 and English 1A. These classes provide a supportive and stimulating environment for Puente students to build confidence in their writing skills through an exploration of Mexican American / Latino Literatures.

**COUNSELING.** Puente students work closely with their Puente counselor until they graduate, exploring career options, developing an academic educational plan and identifying lifetime goals. Students visit University of California and California State University campuses and attend an annual Puente Transformation conference.

**MENTORS.** Each Puente student is matched with a mentor from the business or professional community. Mentors share with students their personal, academic and career experiences, and provide a window into “real-life” work environments. The network of trained Puente mentors provides many resources for the Puente students, their families, their colleges, and the community.

**OUTSTANDING RESULTS**

- Over 5,500 students have enrolled in the Puente community college program statewide.
- Over 2,000 professionals donate over 18,000 hours annually to Puente students.
- An estimated 200,000 non-Puente students have benefited from Puente’s staff development programs.
- Community colleges with Puente programs transfer 44 percent more Latino students to the University of California than colleges without Puente.