

# PUENTE

## PUENTE HISTORY

Puente was founded in 1981 at Chabot College by counselor Felix Galaviz and English instructor Patricia McGrath. The project's mission was to increase the number of Mexican-American/Latino students transferring to universities. Since then, Puente has expanded to 59 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 35 high school sites throughout California. Puente is a nationally recognized transfer readiness program co-sponsored by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) and the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). MiraCosta College joined Puente in 1991, and has proven to be successful over the years.

Puente is designed to help students adjust to college life and prepare them for transfer to four-year universities. It consists of three components: writing, counseling and mentoring. The program also offers leadership development, enrichment opportunities and ongoing support. Puente's motto is ¡Sí se puede! (Yes, it can be done!)



### MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

Puente Project  
[www.miracosta.edu/puente](http://www.miracosta.edu/puente)  
[www.facebook.com/miracostapuente](https://www.facebook.com/miracostapuente)

### Puente Counselor

► 760.795.6670



*Shaping Minds for Success.*



## PUENTE SCHOLARS

- succeed academically
- are recognized as leaders and scholars
- graduate from four-year colleges and universities
- belong to a statewide network of leaders and professionals

## MISSION

Puente's goal is to increase the number of educationally underserved students who plan to transfer to four-year universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors to future generations. Puente is open to all students.

## WRITING

Puente scholars take two consecutive writing classes, English 50 and English 100. These accelerated writing classes provide a supportive and stimulating environment for Puente scholars to build confidence in their writing skills through an exploration of Mexican-American/Latino literature and experience.

## COUNSELING

Puente scholars take two consecutive counseling classes, COUN 110 and COUN 105. These classes are designed to help students improve study skills, learn personal success techniques, explore career options and prepare for transfer. Additionally, students work closely with their Puente counselor until successful transfer to a four-year institution.

## MENTORING

Puente scholars are matched with a mentor from the business or professional community. Mentors share with students their personal, academic, and career experiences, and provide a realistic view of the professional world. The network of mentors provides many resources for scholars and their families.

## ACTIVITIES

Students visit the University of California, California State University, and private/independent campuses, and attend an annual Puente Motivational Transfer Conference. In addition, students are exposed to cultural enrichment events. Puente activities are tied to classroom assignments or mentor events and are held on and off campus throughout the year.

## PUENTE CLUB

The Puente Club is a support organization committed to leadership development, community service, outreach and fundraising. Many Puente scholars join the club to stay connected with Puente after the one-year commitment.

## HOW TO JOIN

If you are interested in becoming a Puente scholar, please contact the Puente counselor or visit the Puente website for more information. Students should also:

- attend a Puente information session
- must be eligible to take English and Counseling courses in the fall and spring
- have a goal of transfer to a four-year university
- be able to commit one academic year to the program's instruction and activities (fall and spring)
- meet with the counselor regularly and complete an educational plan