

Nomination for Yolanda Valenzuela - Outstanding Faculty Member Award

I would like to nominate my Puente Co-Coordinator Yolanda Valenzuela who I have worked closely with for the past ten years. Her dedication, compassion, and commitment have transformed the lives of our students, mentors and campus community.

Yolanda has inspired students to believe in themselves, to embrace their culture, and to pursue their dreams with confidence and pride. Her classroom has been a place where all students feel seen, heard, and empowered. Because of her leadership, we are fortunate to even have a Puente program on our campus since she was part of the writing and advocacy team that made this possible ten years ago.

Moreover, she has served on several committees like the Equity and Antiracism Planning Council where she demonstrates her unwavering dedication to social justice and her belief in every student's potential. She is passionate about teaching reading and writing as well as creating workshops and events that support their learning.

Having worked with her this closely I have received positive feedback from the students she teaches and you can tell she is a passionate educator. Yolanda's impact will continue for years to come, and on behalf of the students, families, colleagues, and the entire Puente community, we would like to honor Yolanda Valenzuela for this well deserved award.

Sandra Mendez

Puente Co-Coordinator and Counselor