Puente Project

Program Review 2025 - 2026

Puente Co-Coordinators

Sandra Mendez

Counselor and Co-Coordinator

Yolanda Valenzuela

English Professor and Co-Coordinator

Mission Statement

The mission of the Puente Project at Cañada College is “to increase the number of educationally underrepresented students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees, and return to the community as mentors and leaders to future generations.”

Major Accomplishments (2023 - 2025)

PUENTE

- Restarted In-Person Field Trips - 1st overnight trip to USC, UCLA, day trip to Cal Poly SLO
- Summer 2025 Counseling Hours - Recruited entire cohort before the 1st day of Fall 2025
- Hired 3 Puente/Cultural Center Student Ambassadors
- Campus-Wide Events - Luis Valdez, over 100+ in attendance
- Received consistent Administrative assistance to execute campus events and field trips

Challenges (2023 - 2025)

Field Trip/ Event Coordination

- Using class time to complete Puente field trip forms and surveys while trying to cover course curriculum objectives

Curriculum Challenges

- Due to CalGETC implementation in 2025-26, Puente programs across the state were required to limit the Counseling/PD courses to three units max per academic year
    - Starting the spring 2026 Puente students will only take English 110 (no CRER class)

Service Area Outcomes

Puente students will develop a Student Educational Plan (SEP) with a counselor with the goal of getting an AA/AS and/or transferring to a four-year college or university

- Assessment method - During the fall 2025 semester, the Puente counselor reviewed the document titled, “Ed Plan Intervention List” sent by PRIE. This list contains information on the entire Puente cohort that includes their program of study and SEP status.
- Criterion for success - 80% or higher will: develop a Student Educational Plan (SEP) with a counselor with the goal of getting an AA/AS and/or transferring to a four-year college or university.
- Results and discussion - 81% of the Puente students have developed a Student Educational Plan (SEP) with a counselor with the goal of getting an AA/AS and/or transferring to a four-year college or university.

Goals and Resource Requests

- Puente/Cultural Center Ambassador Continued Funding
- Puente Summer Counseling Funding
- New Puente English Professor/Co-Coordinator 2026-27
  - Current Puente English Professor/Co-Coordinator will end role Spring 2026
  - New Puente English Professor/Co-Coordinator will start Fall 2026

Once a Puentista, Always a Puentista!