



## **Puente** **Student Services**

### **Vision/Narrative**

The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally underserved students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors to future generations.

Our program is comprised of three components: English, Counseling, and Mentoring.

In the Puente Program, students commit to the program for a full year in which they are obligated to take two consecutive English and Guidance classes with the same team of instructors. In the English classes, students write focused and well-developed essays, with an emphasis on research. Mexican American/Latino literature is incorporated into these English courses. In Guidance classes, the emphasis is on giving students a strong foundation for academic success by focusing on career development and student learning skills. The Counselor outside of the Guidance class, works with the students: Phase I (first semester Fall), Phase 2 (second semester Spring), and Phase 3 (continuing beyond the first year). The counselor provides all students with academic, career, and personal counseling. Throughout the semester, the Counselor and the English instructor have weekly meetings to assess the needs of Puente students and to coordinate Puente events. Upon completion of the first year, the counselor continues to meet with the students (Phase 3) about their academic progress, transfer process, career development, and personal counseling until they graduate and/or transfer.

Puente has created a successful mentoring program. Every student participating in the Phase I and Phase 2 semesters have been matched with a mentor from the service area. This has been done through training, ongoing correspondence, as well as by facilitating numerous mentor/student social events, both on and off campus. The goal is to match a student with a mentor who reflects that student's cultural identity.

Students in the Puente Program have scheduled visits to nearby college/university campuses once per semester. The goal is to help students visualize themselves on the campus, make connections, and develop socializing skills. Students are required to attend a Motivational Transfer Conference in which they meet with representatives from colleges throughout California and attend other college success workshops. By implementing such networking opportunities and transfer-oriented activities, Puente aims to create a strong community-building foundation in our students. Support and Community building are key factors to student retention and transfer rates.

The Puente Statewide Office provides professional development for the counselor and English instructor. In terms of statewide and regional training, ongoing support through program websites, phone/e-mail consultations, as well as access to regional coordinators, trainers, and researchers.

### **Feedback from Supervisor / Dean**



**Program Objective 1: Increase student outreach**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Strategy #6: Foster a campus culture of engagement and excellence through improved communication, coordination, collaboration, and participation.

Goal #1: Improve communication processes among all stakeholders to increase awareness about planning activities, resource allocations, and significant factors affecting the college.

**IEC Program Review:**

No: The High School CalSoap Program eliminated the Gavilan College high school outreach program. Counselor had limited time to do high school outreach due to Kickstart Orientation.

**Progress:**

No- None -

**Activity 1: Contact each comprehensive high school department in Gilroy and surrounding service areas to inform and promote Puente Program**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request**

Specific Item(s) Needed	Amount Requested (\$)	Fund Source / Type
Lunch at each site (6 sites)	\$ 1200.00	Equity / On-Going
<i>Total Requested</i>	<i>\$ 1200.00</i>	

**Activity 2: Facilitate Panel presentations using current and Phase III Puente students to address potential incoming high school students.**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		



Vice-President		11
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



**Program Objective 2: Examine the prospect of expanding the program to double the students who can participate in this model approach.**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Strategy #1: Optimize enrollment, course offerings, and services to reflect community needs and growth.

Goal #3: Increase course and program offerings, as funding allows with a particular emphasis on Transfer Model Curriculum (AA/AS-Ts).

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

No: This is still in discussion for this academic year.

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		11
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



**Program Objective 3: Provide consistent clerical support for Puente Program**

**Strategy and Goal(s):**

Strategy #2: Improve student services and enhance curriculum and programs in order to help students meet their educational, career, and personal goals.

Goal #1: Increase the student success, completion, and transfer rates using reasonable benchmarks specified by the College.

**IEC Program Review:**

Yes, this Objective is based from the last IEC Program Review.

**Progress:**

No: Progress was temporary. We used Work Study students, but due to confidentiality and space issues, we could no longer utilize them in ways that was beneficial towards the program.

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		9
Budget Committee		
President's Council		



## **Program Objective 4: Support the creation of a STEM cohort as one of two Beta sites.**

### **Strategy and Goal(s):**

Strategy #2: Improve student services and enhance curriculum and programs in order to help students meet their educational, career, and personal goals.

Goal #1: Increase the student success, completion, and transfer rates using reasonable benchmarks specified by the College.

Strategy #1: Optimize enrollment, course offerings, and services to reflect community needs and growth.

Goal #1: Create an institutional approach to offer and integrate student outreach activities, recruitment, assessment, orientation, counseling, retention and follow-up efforts, with particular attention to educationally under-represented student populations.

### **IEC Program Review:**

No: This is new.

In expanding our Puente Program, we want to focus on STEM students. This would include seeking STEM professionals to be mentors to our STEM students. According to the National Science Board, “63% of science and engineering degrees awarded in 2011 went to white students compared with roughly 10% to Hispanics and 9% to blacks.” According to the 2013 U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics only hold 7% of jobs related to STEM fields.

Because Hispanic students are so vastly underrepresented in the STEM fields, we believe that we have an opportunity to address these gaps through our successful transfer rates. According to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (July 2012), “Minority Serving Institutions (MSI’s) have been identified as key intermediaries to improve the availability, quality and diversity of the STEM pipeline (IHEP, 2010). Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI’s) in particular, have the potential to increase the number of STEM degrees awarded to Hispanic students, as about half of all Hispanic undergraduate students currently attend Hispanic Serving Institutions (Dowd, Malcolm, & Bensimon, 2009) and 40 percent of the undergraduate degrees awarded to Hispanics are granted by HSI’s (Dowd, Malcolm & Macias, 2010).

### **Progress:**

No- None -

### **Activity 1: Explore partnerships with STEM grant for implementing STEM Puente cohort.**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

### **Activity 2: Identify resource and space needs.**



**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

**Activity 3: Develop outreach strategies for creating a viable cohort and recruitment stream.**

**Personnel Request - *none***

**Non-Personnel Request - *none***

**Rankings:**

Ranker	Comments	Rank
Dean		
Vice-President		10
Budget Committee		
President's Council		