



Dear Student:

Hello! I know you will be qualified to take English 101 at Los Angeles Southwest College this coming Spring semester of 2009 and wanted to inform you about the Puente Project.

Puente is a nationally recognized transfer readiness program sponsored by the University of California. If you are interested in transferring to a university to obtain a Bachelor's Degree after LASC, and you are looking to have an enjoyable, supportive, challenging and rewarding experience at LASC, then please consider the Puente Project. Puente is open to all students.

Puente has four main components:

- 1. Classes:** The first year a student takes English 28 in the Fall and English 101 in the Spring. The content of both courses focuses on Latino authors and issues. The same instructor teaches both classes and offers extra support to assist students in developing their writing skills. Also, a Counseling / Personal Development class is taken each semester for the first year. This is a study skills class. Students are **guaranteed** enrollment in all Puente classes.
- 2. Counseling:** Puente students work closely with their Puente Counselor until they are ready to transfer. Students meet several times each semester with the counselor to develop an educational study plan and for personal counseling.
- 3. Mentors:** Students are matched with a professional from the community who will share their knowledge and experience with the students. Mentor-Student dinners are also hosted several times each semester to give students an opportunity to network with local professionals.
- 4. Activities:** Puente students take educational field trips to universities each year and attend an annual statewide Puente Student Conference. In addition, the Puente Club helps students develop leadership skills by organizing community service projects and fundraising events.

Puente Students

- Develop reading and writing strategies to ensure college success.
- Implement a successful transfer plan.
- Transfer to and graduate from a university.
- Learn strategies for successful careers.
- Form networks with fellow students and professionals in their fields.
- Cultivate leadership skills.
- Make new friends.

LASC Puente Project Requirements

- Eligibility for ENGL 28 (Fall) or ENGL 101 (Spring),
- Intent to transfer to a university,
- GPA of 2.0 minimum,
- Employment of twenty hours or less per week, and
- Make a one year commitment to all Puente Project components.

Results

- Over 20,000 students have been served to date.
- Over 280,000 students have benefitted from the extended impact of Puente training.
- Retention of Puente students is 83%, compared with 62% for community college students statewide.
- Community colleges with Puente programs transfer 44% more Latino students to the University of California than colleges without Puente.
- Puente is the only post-secondary program in California ever to receive the prestigious National Innovations in American Government Award.

If you are interested in signing up for the program, please call (323) 241-5201 or email: ortegad@lasc.edu to set up an appointment with the **Puente Counselor, Daniel Ortega**. Make sure you state you want an appointment **for Puente**. Please call soon as there are a limited number of slots available.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ortega
Counselor – Puente

In the Spring semester of 2009 the Puente class schedule is as follows:

0929	English 101	11:10-12:35	TTH	D. CIFARELLI	TEC210
1812	PD 20	12:45-2:10	TTH	D. ORTEGA	TEC210