



El Camino College Puente Newsletter



Spring 2010

Puente Starts Spring Semester with Eyes Set on the Future

El Camino College's 24th Puente Class starts Spring 2010 semester with one of its largest groups. Thirty-three Puente students have successfully completed their fall studies in both Human Development 8 and English A, thereby qualifying them to remain in Puente. All 33 students are in good standing with the program, having attended Puente events such as a regional motivational conference at UC Riverside and the annual Familia Night.

Spring semester will continue to challenge, as students progress in the academic requirements of Human Development 5 and English 1A. On Puente 24's spring reading list is the novel, "Chronicle of a Death Foretold," by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and readings from the text, "Between Worlds," by Susan Bachmann and Melinda Barth. Pieces include "Los Vendidos" by

Luis Valdez, "Myth of the Latin Woman" by Judith Ortiz Cofer, "Three Ways of Meeting Oppression" by Martin Luther King Jr., "Breaking Tradition" by Janice Mirikitani, "Why Does My Race Matter?" by Yasmine Bahrani and "Shooting an Elephant" by George Orwell.

In late February, Puente 24 will also begin the Mentor component of the program, a very important opportunity for the students to seek guidance from the community. The students will also continue to explore culture and society during spring. On March 14, the class will visit The Museum of Tolerance; and the Puente Club is busy organizing fundraising events to finance additional cultural trips and university visits. The purpose of campus tours is to allow Puente 24 students to become informed on the campus to which they hope to later transfer.

Puente 24 is Grateful to this Year's Mentors

Mentors for the Puente program have always been generous with their time and support. This year, Puente is extremely lucky to receive the guidance of a committed group of individuals.

Maribel Hernandez, Loretta Ramirez and the Puente 24 students would like to thank the following mentors:

Ngozi RA Akosia
Mary Alvidrez
Theresa Barragan-Echeverria
Rebecca Bergeman
Giovanni Bohorquez
Griselda Castro
Mario Escalante
Edilia Fausto-Robles
Nancy Fong
Margarita Gonzalez
René Lozano
Jeff McMahan
Myrna Mendoza
Eduardo Muñoz
Yury Najarro
Sara Nieves-Lucas
Julieta Ortiz
Sulma Portillo
Blanca Prado
Efren Rangel
Blanca Rodriguez
Dr. Arvid Spor
Dr. Mercedes Thompson
Cynthia Velasco

Motivational Conference Inspires and Informs Puente 24

Puente coordinators Maribel Hernandez and Loretta Ramirez escorted Puente 24 students on November 14 to UC Riverside to attend the statewide Puente Project's Transfer Motivational Conference.

At the conference, students listened to a series of inspirational speeches by leaders in the Southern California Latino community. Topics all focused on academic excellence professional aspirations, cultural pride and community service.

students paid close attention, as well as participated in the question and answer portion of the session.

The conference ended with the students exploring their own individual interests and



From left: Puente student Cathy Moreno, Puente Counselor Maribel Hernandez and Puente student Erica Barrera

attending additional workshops. These workshops included a wide variety of topics such as Creativity & Activism Through Art, Financial Literacy, Careers in Law, Pursing the Dream of becoming an Author, Cultural Expression & Community Activism Through Music, Puente Leadership, and STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Opportunities.

Puente 24 finally returned to the El Camino College chartered bus after a long day of inspiration and learning. For many students, this was their first time visiting a university campus. They were admirable El Camino College representatives who will, no doubt, soon return to a university as transfer students.



From left: Puente students Christian Perez, Erica Barrera and Sergio Cervantes

Following the motivational speeches, the students attended a workshop session about the transfer process for UC and CSU. Since a main goal of the Puente Program is to help students in the transferring from community college to a four-year university, this workshop was especially valuable, and the Puente

Cultural Event!

Puente students, mentors and friends are encouraged to attend a panel discussion on Latinas in literature.

Tues. March 30

at 1 p.m.

in Distance Education,
Room 166



Students & Puente Supporters Celebrate Familia Night

On December 3, Puente transformed the Counseling Department into a joyful winterland to host Familia Night. Students and their loved ones attended the annual celebration, along with Puente mentors and friends of the program.

The guests dined on multi-cultural dishes, provided by the Puente students and their families. During the celebration, guests also viewed a 40-minute slideshow that featured pictures from the students' day at the UC Riverside Motivational Conference along with a sampling of quotes taken from the students' many English A essays, demonstrating the writing and analytical skills of the class.



From back left: Puente Mentor Giovanni Bohorquez, Puente family, Puente student Erica Barrera and friend. From front right: Puente student Claudia Gutierrez and family.



From Left: Puente students Christian Perez and Linda Hernandez

Familia Night provided students with the opportunity to celebrate the completion of their first semester in college, welcome their family and friends to share with them the college experience, and bond with mentors and supporters of the program over Puente memories and future dreams.

The Puente Team Starts the Search for New Students

After a strong start as a new Puente Team, Counselor Maribel Hernandez and Instructor Loretta Ramirez are looking forward to recruiting for their second year as Puente Coordinators. The Puente Team is seeking motivated new students for the Class of Puente 25 and asks the El Camino College community to help spread the word on the Puente Program.

Puente is a rigorous one-year program that consists of English instruction, counseling and mentorship.

The English instruction focuses on writing strategies and includes Latino and multicultural readings. The aim is to help students advance from basic narrative writing to advanced critical analysis research composition, while introducing them to multicultural topics and literature. The counseling aspect guides students into becoming successful college scholars through heightening their awareness of many college resources and study skills. Finally, the mentoring component supports students along their academic journey, sharing inspirational stories of success.

The English instructor and counselor work together to create a support network for students. The end goal of all this combined effort is for

students to transfer to a four-year university.

Puente has already scheduled classes for Fall 2010. New students will have priority registration for Puente's English A: Writing the College Essay class (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:35 a.m.) and Human Development 8: Orientation to College & Educational Planning class (Wednesdays, 2:00 to 4:05 p.m.).

Any student who is devoted to achieving his or her educational goal is welcome to apply to the Puente Program. Puente also asks that new applicants be sensitive to the study of culture, willing to participate in scheduled Puente Program & Puente Club activities, eager to contribute to the El Camino College community, able to commit to regular meetings with mentors, and have an interest in transferring to a four-year university.

Recruitment and informational meetings will begin in late May and continue to be offered throughout the summer months.

For more details and to join the Puente mailing list, please contact Counselor Maribel Hernandez at 310-660-3593, x3683 or Mhernandez@elcamino.edu or Loretta Ramirez at Lramirez@elcamino.edu.

The Puente Program Encourages Transfer

Puente students are advised to visit the Transfer Center for information on upcoming tours of universities.

The Transfer Center is now organizing visits to the following campuses:

UC Riverside—Fri 3/5

San Diego State—Sat 3/20

Art Center—Tue 3/23

OTIS College of Art & Design—Fri 3/26

UC Santa Barbara—Sat 4/10

Cal State Fullerton—Sat 4/24

UCLA—Fri 4/30

Cal State Long Beach—Fri 5/21

Cal Poly Pomona—TBA

For more details on departure times for the above tours and to register, visit the Transfer Center.

The Transfer Center will also host a University Fair on Wed., March 10, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The fair will be held on the El Camino Library Lawn. Puente students are asked to attend.

