

# Las Positas College Puente Project

Volume 1 Fall 2025 Semester



## RECAP OF EVENTS

- Noche de Familia
- Mentor Mixer 1 & 2
- Northern California Transfer Motivational Conference at University of California, Davis
- Puente Club Meetings
- and more!



## What is the Puente Experience

The PUENTE Project is an experience where different cultures unite to pursue a better future by assisting students in transferring to a four-year university. It's about learning, personal growth, and making lasting connections that will help you academically and personally.



## Puente Club

Puente Club was founded by students in the Puente Program—a learning community that serves Hispanic and Latinx students—who wanted a space where they could connect with their peers beyond the classroom. We welcome anyone who wants to join, Puentista or not!



Read about what it's like being in Puente at Las Positas College, learn about Mentor Mixers, and more!





## Noche de Familia

Noche de Familia is an event held in the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester by the Puente Project at Las Positas College that gives Phase 1 students and their families the opportunity to learn more about the program. Faculty working with the Puente Project program including Counselors, English Professors, and Mathematics Professors share the wide range of benefits associated with the program and how each part assists in creating well-rounded students ready to take on the college experience and eventually transfer to a four-year college or university. This year's event was hosted in the new Cultural Community Center, where students and family members—including staff members and their families—attended, with a total of 153 participants. Students and their families were shown the impact the Puente Project has made at Las Positas College, including statistics demonstrating that Puente students have higher transfer readiness and greater overall success in their college-level coursework. In addition to what the program coordinators had to say, families also heard from Phase 3 Students: Alberto Moreno, Regina Olea, and Viri Gonzalez speaking about their experience with the Puente program along with advice for new students.



## The NorCal Transfer Motivational Conference

The Northern California Transfer Motivational Conference is an annual event hosted by the Puente Project at different universities across the state of California. The event is a one-day student conference that brings together Phase 1 Puente Students from across Northern California to build community, attend workshops, and experience four-year university campuses. The 2025 NorCal Transfer Motivational Conference was held at the University of California, Davis and in recent years has been held at the California State University, East Bay with the goal of motivating students to academically succeed and transfer to four-year universities. Students and faculty alike had positive experiences allowing them to gain more insight into transferring to four-year universities, how to succeed in school and general life, and the chance to meet college representatives from different colleges across the state of California.



## New Puente T-Shirt!

This year saw the debut of a new Puente t-shirt at Las Positas College. Made in collaboration between the LPC Puente Program and LPC's Director of Marketing and Communications Chip Woerner, this new logo allows for an increase in exposure for the program through merchandise and stickers. In addition, the shirt serves as a recognizable symbol of the program assisting in the program's branding and outreach efforts to support students.





## Mentor Mixer 1

An essential part of the Puente Project at Las Positas College is the inclusion of members of the community to provide guidance and support to Phase 1 Students. Students who are in their first semester with the program are paired with a professional from the community or second year student to gain insight into the career, educational opportunities, and resources available at Las Positas. This year, 39 members from the community, including industry professionals and returning students have come to support this year's new cohort of Puente students. The first Mentor Mixer, led by the Puente Math team consisting of Alain Olavarrieta and Ashley McHale, gave mentors and their mentees the ability to get to know each other and break the ice. The main activity of the night was a challenge to each table consisting of six people to create the tallest freestanding balloon structure while only utilizing balloons and tape. Overall, each table came up with unique and creative ways at achieving this feat, with most tables creating structures of over 8 feet. The winning team created a tower of 9.5 feet beating out other teams by a matter of inches.

In the Puente Program, "Phase 1" students are students who are just beginning their academic journey, focusing on confidence, cultural identity and community. Those who have further progressed in the program and are prepared to transfer are known as "Phase 3 students," applying their knowledge and skills for their next educational pathway.



## What is the "Puente Experience"

From The Perspective of Viri Gonzalez

The PUENTE Project is an experience where different cultures unite to pursue a better future by assisting students in transferring to a four-year university. It's about learning, personal growth, and making lasting connections that will help you academically and personally. Puente provides an academic space through intensive counseling, mentorship, and curriculums such as English that promotes free writing and focuses on multicultural literature. Through the Puente experience, students build strong academic identities, develop leadership skills, and embolden their confidence to succeed in higher education. It creates a sense of community and belonging through student support of one another by stories, shared goals and mindsets. Personal stories and goals encourage others to value themselves and empower their voice. Puente creates a cohort-based environment where students take classes together and participate in activities that engage in academic and cultural discussion. This encourages students to get out of their comfort zone and build a connection with their peers through support, belonging, and collaboration. The emphasis of support and connections is what builds the Puente experience; Puente faculty also builds close and supportive connections with the students, offering guidance and encouragement. With the support of mentorship, pairing students with professionals who share similar backgrounds or goals, serving as role models has brought inspiration and real-world insight to students. The Puente Project serves as a bridge, lighting the path for those who dare to dream bigger, connecting them to opportunity and empowering them to pursue their goal; it is the foundation for future success.







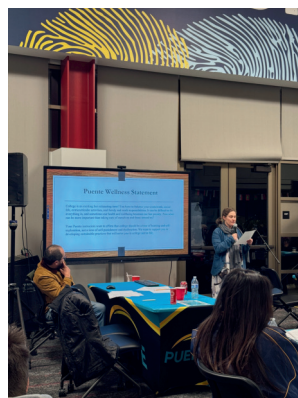
# University of California, Berkeley Walking Tour

On Friday, November 21, 2025, Puente students had the opportunity to tour the #1 public university in the United States of America, the University of California at Berkeley. During this walking tour, students got to witness first-hand what it's like to attend UC Berkeley. Many students took a moment to touch the 4.0 Ball, wishing for a little extra good luck to carry them through the rest of the semester.



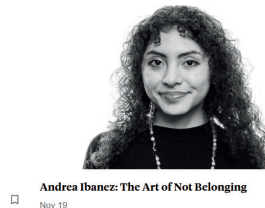
## Mentor Mixer 2

On Wednesday, November 19, 2025, we hosted our second of three Mentor Mixers, which bring together professionals from the community and pairs them with Phase 1 students to provide them guidance in their careers, educational pathways, and college resources. Led by the English faculty, this event had mentors and mentees fill in Madlibs using different nouns, adjectives and verbs to create colorful stories. In addition to this, students and their mentors had the opportunity to learn about 8 wellness pillars of how to care for their self and community during college.



## Student Spotlight

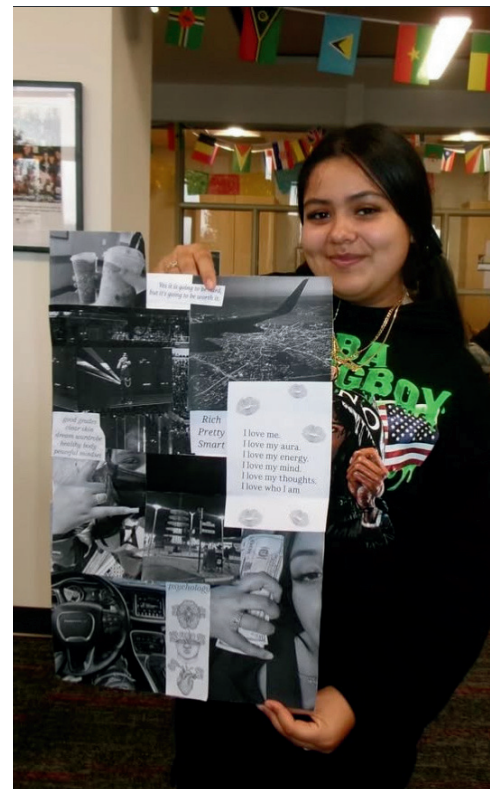
Phase 1 Puente Students Brayan Llanos, Andrea Ibanez, and Esmeralda Garrido-Reyes had their Perspectives shared on KQED public radio. You can scan the QR code to read about their perspectives.













# Puente Club

By Yazmin Martinez Portilla and Viri Gonzalez

Puente Club was founded by students in the Puente Program—a learning community that primarily serves Hispanic and Latinx students—who wanted a space where they could connect with their peers beyond the classroom. We welcome anyone who wants to join, Puentista or not! Our mission is to foster community through volunteering, outreach, and club events that connect students to their culture. We also provide our members with resources and workshops that set them up for academic and transfer success.



## Visit the Puente Space in the Cultural Community Center

Located in Building 2400, Room 2401 the Puente Project has its own dedicated space dubbed the “Puente Space.” This is a space for Puente students that reinforces the program’s focus on creating community and academic excellence. It provides an environment for all students to connect with one another and a quiet space where they can complete their work, all with the goal of supporting their personal growth and academic success. With great air conditioning, comfortable chairs, and games, the Puente space is the perfect place to relax and get work done between classes.

### 2025-2026 Puente Cohort 1



### 2025-2026 Puente Cohort 2




**PUENTE**

**Editors:**

Scott Gerardo

Viri Gonzalez

Puente Project Team