

# PUENTE TODAY



## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

For too many students, the quality of their education will be largely determined by their zip code, ethnicity, or immigration status. Unequal access to opportunity isn't new, but the COVID-19 crisis has made the problem worse.

The good news is that a brighter future isn't only possible, it's already on its way.

Thanks to the swift actions taken by supporters like you, PUENTE Learning Center served over 2,100 students and their families in the 2020-21 academic year.

Together, we built bridges to education, preserved learning gains, and provided comprehensive support to those in our community who need us most.

As we look to the promise a new school year brings, not a day goes by when I'm not reminded of how our services are only made possible thanks to your generous support.

Thank you for transforming lives with the gift of opportunity.

Jerome Greening  
CEO



# Back to School

In August, your support helped us reopen our doors for a full and safe return to in-person learning for the 2021-22 school year, welcoming back our preschool and charter elementary school students, including our inaugural 4th grade class.

Our students were brimming with excitement to be back in school and reunited with their friends and teachers, following two and a half challenging semesters as a result of the pandemic.

Thanks to our dedicated teachers, 73% of our charter students are grade-level proficient, a far higher number than at other nearby public elementary schools.



## Meet Evelyn



"PUENTE has always maintained a positive and high-quality learning environment. In the last year, we helped our community with grab-and-go student meals, laptops, school supplies and anything our students needed for success while learning remotely," says Evelyn.

Since 2018, Evelyn Torres has worked as a Campus Aide for PUENTE Charter School as well as an after school instructor for our partner provider, ThinkTogether.

With over 20 years of experience in education, Evelyn has seen first-hand how access to learning has the power to shape a child's future for the better.

"PUENTE students are incredibly resilient," says Evelyn. "They adapt to change, they support each other, and they learn and succeed together."



# College & Career



"As a first-generation college student, I sometimes don't know what steps to take and how to make sure I am able to graduate within four years. PUENTE's College & Career program has made sure that I am not alone, have support along the way, and have what it takes to succeed."

- Omar Pablo, College & Career Student  
UC Berkeley Mechanical Engineering Major '25

In the 2020-21 academic year, 98% of high school students like Omar in our College & Career program were college-bound, while 88% of our college students persisted through their higher education. This fall, thanks to your generosity, we are supporting over 400 high school students grades 9-12, and over 70 college students, empowering them through high school and college on their way to high achievement.

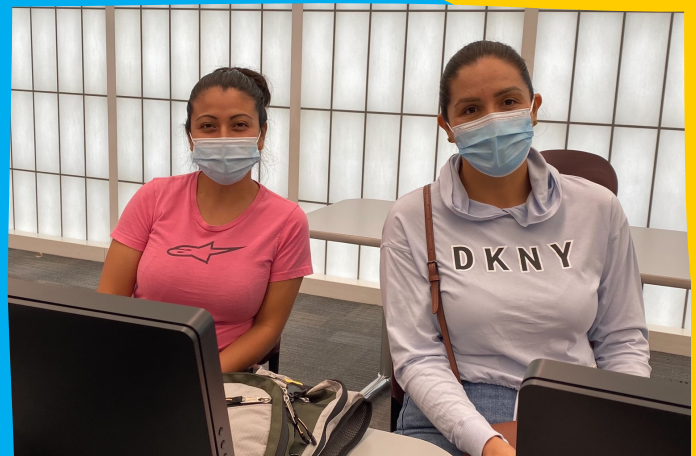
## ADULTS

The start of a new school year represents the chance at a brighter future. A future everyone deserves.

This fall, PUENTE also welcomed back hundreds of adult students for in-person and online classes in ESL 1-6, Citizenship, High School Diploma, Digital Skills, and Career Certificate Programs.

Across all of our unique multi-generational programs, over 1,100 students are being served at PUENTE.

Thank you for making this possible.



# Give Monthly for a Brighter Future

By joining our monthly giving community, PUENTE Partners, you can commit to building a more just and equitable world where everyone has access to high-quality education.

Your recurring donations will empower our students and families in need—creating ladders of opportunity for a brighter tomorrow.

Visit [puente.org/donate](https://puente.org/donate)



or scan the QR code  
to start your monthly  
investment today.



## Earning Your Trust

Thanks to overwhelmingly positive reviews from supporters like you, PUENTE was named a 2021 Top-Rated Charity by GreatNonprofits.



"PUENTE Learning Center changed my life. After I retired, I was grateful to find a place where I could take ESL classes and computer classes with staff that are very kind and very patient. They helped me with filling out my citizenship application, they made sure I was connected to the outside world during the COVID-19 shutdown, and they facilitated me getting access to the vaccine.

Every person I've ever encountered there has been a blessing." - Bertha S.

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