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PRESS ADVISORY

Matt Wells joins PUENTE Learning Center as Vice President of Development

Los Angeles, December 29, 2017 – PUENTE Learning Center is pleased to announce the appointment of Matt Wells as the organization’s Vice President of Development. Wells will take the lead in philanthropy initiatives, including planning and implementing all external fundraising activities related to corporate, foundation, government gifts, individual giving and other revenue generating means. Matt will work closely with the CEO and PUENTE’s Board of Directors in raising revenue for the organization’s programs.

Matt Wells, a Los Angeles native, comes to PUENTE from DIAVOLO, a leading arts and dance company that performs nationally and internationally. Wells contributed a substantial amount of time to DIAVOLO serving several different roles: COO, Director of Development and Executive Director. During his 7 years at DIAVOLO, Wells increased the budget size from \$800,000 to \$2.3 million, including an increase in annual contributed income from \$50,000 to \$1.4 million. Previously, Wells was the President and co-founder of Laurus Tutoring, a company that provided academic assistance and specialized test preparation in Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago, for all grade levels K-12, including children with special needs. Additionally, Wells received the Ralph Parsons Foundation Fellowship for Nonprofit Leadership; and was selected to attend the American Express Leadership Academy by the Center for Creative Leadership and the ESC’s Nonprofit Executive Institute funded by Wells Fargo.

“Matt’s talent, knowledge, and passion will help PUENTE reach a new pinnacle of fundraising success, which will directly support PUENTE’s mission and build opportunities for our community through education. We are excited to have Matt on board to help us effectively grow fundraising efforts while maintaining current and building new relationships,” said Andrea Bazán, PUENTE’s CEO.

PUENTE Learning Center engaged the services of the Southern California based firm, Michelle Whiting & Associates (MW&A) to design and conduct the search for the Vice President of Development position. MW&A focuses on placing senior development and executive level professionals in the nonprofit sector, which has resulted in successful leadership placement at over 60 organizations throughout the country.

About PUENTE Learning Center - An established nonprofit presence in the Los Angeles community for over 30 years, PUENTE Learning Center is recognized for its commitment to its mission and focus on education. PUENTE’s programs are designed to create a pipeline or “bridge” for students in all levels of their education in the community of Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles and beyond. Annually, PUENTE provides academic instruction to more than 3,600 children, youth, and adults and, to date, over 100,000 individuals have made use of the tuition-free resources on the path to self-sufficiency for themselves and their families.

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