

PUENTE LEARNING CENTER

PUENTE TODAY



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Across PUENTE Learning Center's spectrum of services, over 2,000 students spent nearly 18 months learning remotely before returning in person last fall for the 2021-22 school year.

Now, with the school year nearly behind us, it has become clear that COVID-19 will continue to upend norms. While the challenges of learning during the pandemic have affected students everywhere, the truth is they have not affected everyone equally.

Over the past year, PUENTE evolved and adapted, responding in real time to the educational and comprehensive needs of our students and families. As a result, our PUENTE community has emerged stronger than before.

I am proud to share with you through this Spring 2022 publication of *PUENTE TODAY* the transformative impact of your gracious and generous support.

Although our community faced headwinds this school year, this time has also been one of incredible resilience, opportunity, and celebration.

Thanks to generous supporters like you, PUENTE is empowering students and families in Boyle Heights, East LA, and beyond to realize their academic and personal achievement goals, no matter the circumstance.

We are so grateful for you. Thank you.

Jerome Greening
CEO



CHILDREN

This school year, PUENTE Elementary School served 247 TK-4th grade students. Even with the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, our internal assessments show that 58% of elementary school students are meeting or exceeding grade-level proficiency—surpassing other service area elementary schools. In 2022-23, PUENTE Elementary School is looking forward to completing its expansion, serving over 300 students in grades TK-5.

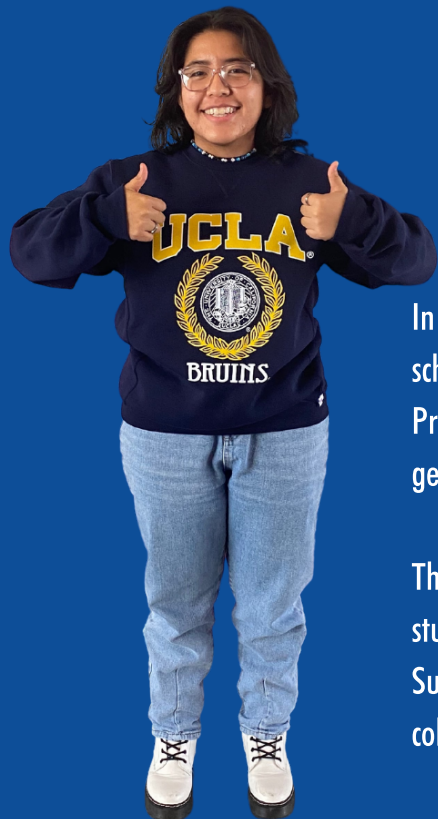


PUENTE continues to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 learning loss with socio-emotional learning, after school opportunities, summer bridge learning, and extracurricular activities. Thanks to program partners like Girls on the Run LA, Hollenbeck PALs, and Theatre of Hearts/Youth First, PUENTE children were empowered through sports and creative arts, including running, soccer, cornhole, dance, and so much more! Because when kids get moving, they're more likely to unlock their full potential both on the playground and in school.



PUENTE's Preschool Program also celebrated three years as a state school site! We're proud to serve 42 children with an excellent early childhood education for kindergarten readiness.





YOUTH

In the 2021-22 school year, PUENTE's College & Career Program grew! More than 500 high school and college students were served this year through our College Access and College Success Programs, a 25% increase from the previous school year. Even more remarkably, your generosity has supported a 158% increase in students served compared to just four years ago.

This June, 100% of our students will be graduating from high school, and 97% of those students will be attending college in the fall. These students will be progressing into our College Success Program, with continuing support to succeed academically and stay on track to graduate college.

With the support of our philanthropic partners, PUENTE also awarded \$28,000 in scholarships this year to students attending college in the fall and those persisting in their postsecondary education!



College tours are an important part of the college decision process. In the 2021-22 school year, PUENTE's College & Career program visited 5 campuses, including UCLA, UCR, Cal Poly Pomona, the Claremont Colleges, and the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

ADULTS

Last fall, PUENTE's Adult Program transitioned to a hybrid model. This enabled students who couldn't come to class—for health reasons, work schedules, or transportation issues—to attend class online at the same time their peers were in the classroom. Even though the pandemic has created barriers to learning for many adult students, PUENTE's responsive approach has increased enrollment.



This school year, PUENTE Adult students filled 1,195 classroom seats in courses of study including: High School Diploma and HiSET Prep, English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship Test Preparation, and Career Skills.

This June, 96% of our High School Diploma students on track to graduate will earn their diploma, while 210 ESL students advanced to the next level of ESL during this school year.

MEET LISSETTE

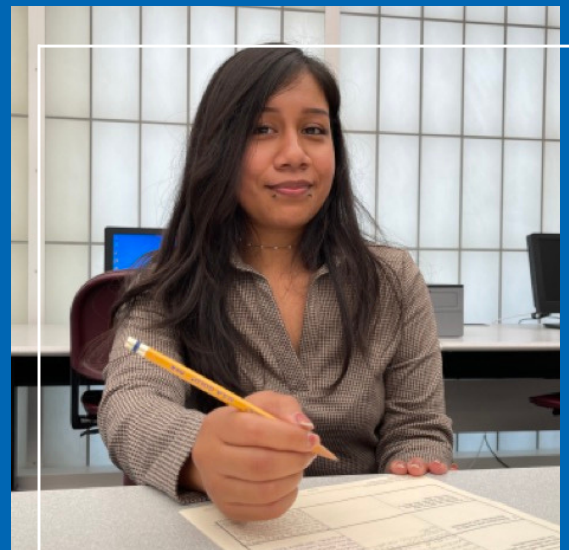
There are a lot of ways you could describe Lissette — she's charismatic, smart, a wife, and a mother. But when she enrolled her daughters at PUENTE Charter Elementary, she discovered another term to describe herself: student.

Before PUENTE, Lissette dreamed of going back to school one day. At only 15 years old, she dropped out of high school. She needed to work. A difficult decision many children of immigrants make in order to help their family make ends meet.

Today, Lissette is on the brink of earning her high school diploma through PUENTE's Adult Education classes. This June, she will graduate with her daughters and husband by her side—Lissette's greatest inspiration through this journey.

"Now, I can help my daughters with their homework and finally apply to work at the Post Office," she told us, smiling.

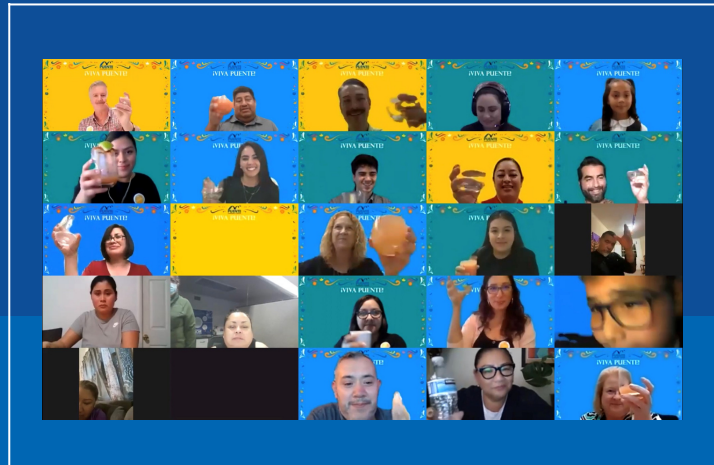
By joining PUENTE Partners, our monthly giving community, today you'll fund programs that empower women like Lissette to invest in themselves, their education, and any opportunity that comes their way.



CELEBRATING TOGETHER

We are beyond grateful for the outpouring of love, support, and generosity we received in honor of PUENTE's two most important fundraisers of this past year: iVIVA PUENTE! and Team PUENTE at the 2022 LA Big 5K.

On November 4th, friends from all over Los Angeles tuned in for iVIVA PUENTE!. The virtual celebration highlighted the remarkable work we accomplished together despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. It was a magical night featuring inspiring student stories of resilience and hope as well as food and drink creation from our partner Brooklyn Avenue Pizza Co. Thanks to your support, PUENTE raised \$36,088 to build bridges to learning and opportunity for those we serve.



Fast forward a few months, and PUENTE supporters showed up in inspiring ways once again. PUENTE is proud to have been an official Charity Partner of the 2022 LA Big 5K at Dodger Stadium. On March 19th, PUENTE participated in a family-friendly run/walk as part of an exciting race weekend of the LA Marathon. Over 60 participants joined Team PUENTE to raise awareness and funds for our mission, and collectively, they raised \$20,358!

Whether you participated, donated, sponsored, or were with us in spirit, thank you for championing a brighter future for all. We couldn't have done this without you.



GIVE MONTHLY FOR GREATER IMPACT

We hope you enjoyed reading this Spring 2022 publication of *PUENTE TODAY*. Uplifting stories like these are taking place every day at PUENTE thanks to the generosity of PUENTE Partners, our monthly giving community.

You can join them for as little as \$5 a month, and your recurring gift will empower students and families with countless opportunities to thrive.



Visit puente.org/donate



Scan the QR code to start your monthly investment or make a one-time gift today.

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

PUENTE has been honored with one of the first Top-Rated Awards of 2022 from Great Nonprofits, the only awards for nonprofits determined by those who have direct experience with the charities — as donors, volunteers and recipients of aid.



"PUENTE Learning Center is such a blessing for the Boyle Heights community. The staff is very helpful and respectful. The teachers are amazing and truly care for their students. I recommend PUENTE." - 90033 PUENTE supporter

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