

PUENTE LEARNING CENTER

PUENTE TODAY



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

This fall's issue of *PUENTE Today* focuses on the impact of our summer 2022 session for children, youth, and adults. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there has been an urgent need for summertime education to mitigate learning loss and to address the social-emotional needs of our students.

This summer, PUENTE Learning Center offered both academic and enrichment opportunities, serving nearly 400 students through summer camp, college and career, and adult education programs.

It's no surprise that the pandemic has had devastating impacts on learning. But it's the most vulnerable students who have experienced the largest setbacks. For low-income communities of color like those we serve, there have been immense deferred and unmet student needs as well as opportunities to support mitigation efforts in the most efficient and equitable ways possible.

At PUENTE, students have been making tremendous progress. And for the first time since 2019, our summer programs were fully in person, allowing us to build momentum and keep the needle of student achievement moving forward.

I am proud to share with you through this Fall 2022 publication of the *PUENTE Today* the impact your generous and gracious support has made possible. We ask you to join us in strengthening the ongoing availability of high-quality education programs and to invest in the wellness needs of this impacted generation.

As the 2022-2023 school year is underway and a new chapter begins for our students and families, the entire team and I are so grateful to have you as part of our PUENTE community.

Together, we lift others!

Jerome Greening
CEO



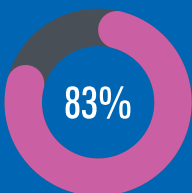
SUMMER CAMP

This summer, PUENTE welcomed 140 PUENTE Elementary School students to Summer Camp for bridge learning and enrichment activities—a 12% increase from the number of students served last year.

PUENTE's on-campus summer bridge learning program is designed to accelerate academic achievement, mitigate learning loss, and strengthen the transition into the upcoming school year.

Through partnerships with Neighborhood Music School, Common Threads Cooking for Life, LAPD Hollenbeck PALS, and Think Together, PUENTE's 2022 Summer Camp taught children creative thinking through music and art classes, valuable life skills through nutrition education to encourage healthy habits, and social emotional learning and leadership skills through sports, dance, and project-based learning.

Over the summer, students experienced the Mobile Zoo of Southern California and participated in fieldtrips— walking to the new Sixth Street Bridge for art lessons on perspective drawing and visiting a bowling alley to celebrate the end of a fun-filled summer.



PUENTE's internal assessments show that 83% of Summer Camp students met or exceeded expectations for attendance, participation, and assignment completion.



YOUTH



This summer, PUENTE served 40 incoming college freshmen and rising high school seniors through our College and Career Program.

While all incoming college students feel overwhelmed by the transition into the next phase of their academic journey, the process is especially challenging for many of our students who are low-income or the first in their family to go to college.

That's why our Summer Program focuses on preparing our new high school graduates for college through a series of workshops, with topics such as on-campus resources, navigating student portals, time management, study skills, office hours, and a graduation roadmap.

After completing our Summer Program, incoming college freshmen progressed into PUENTE's College Success Program, where they continue to receive support to succeed academically and stay on track to graduate.



For our rising high school seniors, our Summer Program emphasized preparation for the college admissions process, with workshop topics such as finding the right college, college majors, financial aid, college essays, and a senior game plan. Students also visited two college campuses over the summer, Cal State Fullerton and UC Irvine.

ADULTS

PUENTE's 2022 Summer Session served 200 adult students in courses of study including English as a Second Language (ESL), High School Diploma, and Career Skills.

At PUENTE, learning goes beyond the classroom. Evidence suggests learning outside the classroom can help raise achievement, lead to a deeper understanding of general and subject-based knowledge, and improve the engagement of students, including adult learners.

As part of PUENTE's Adult Summer Program curriculum, students and their teachers took a field trip to the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The school outing was an opportunity for students not just to explore art and deepen their appreciation of it but also to enjoy a bonding experience with each other.



MEET KRISTIAN ANAYA

Kristian first learned about PUENTE in 2017 when he was a junior at East College Prep High School in Lincoln Heights. As the first in his family to pursue a college education, he needed support.

With the help of PUENTE's College and Career Program, Kristian was able to navigate the college application process and receive admission to multiple colleges, including Cal State LA, where he's now a 4th year Electrical Engineering student.

"Perhaps what stands out to me the most from my time in the program as a high school student was attending a career fair at USC," recalls Kristian about the event that inspired him to pursue a career in Electrical Engineering.



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At the career fair, I met Electrical Engineers from Northrop Grumman, an aerospace and defense company, who spoke with me at length about their revolutionary systems that impact people's lives around the world.

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Kristian was in awe of their work at the forefront of many technological advancements in our nation's history, "from the first flight across the Atlantic Ocean to landing on the moon," he told us excitedly.

From that moment on, Kristian wanted to do everything he could to become an engineer who invents the future and makes history. Fast-forward five years, and he's well on his way to making that dream a reality.

Today, Kristian continues to receive support from PUENTE. He meets with our College and Career Instructors for one-to-one support and academic advising, attends our career workshops, and was even awarded a PUENTE scholarship.

With your support today, PUENTE can help hundreds of students like Kristian every year as they remove barriers to learning, become the first in their family to go to college, and achieve their educational dreams.

GIVE TODAY TO BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOMORROW

Thank you for reading this fall's issue of
PUENTE Today.

We hope you'll consider making a one-time gift or
joining PUENTE Partners, our future-shaping
community of monthly donors. Because a world
where every student has the tools they need—and
deserve—to succeed would be a better world for all
of us.



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a one-time gift or to start your
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GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE

PUENTE is a 2022 top-rated charity by GreatNonprofits, the leading platform for community-sourced stories submitted by those who
know us best — our donors, volunteers and recipients of aid.



"PUENTE Learning Center is the best school that I have ever gone to. As a mother of two little girls that go to PUENTE Charter
Elementary School, I was fortunate to find the continuation classes of high school diploma/GED classes." - Lulus Phobla

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