



The Puente Project is a California-based academic acceleration and college preparation program whose mission is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn their degrees and return to the community as mentors and leaders of future generations. Founded in 1981, its nationally recognized high school and community college training programs instruct faculty in the delivery of an innovative cross-functional intervention program that combines rigorous academics (English writing instruction) with focused, sustained academic counseling and mentoring by members of the local community. Winner of the national Innovations in American Government Award (sponsored by Harvard University and the Ford Foundation, among others) and the subject of numerous outstanding reviews and research reports by the academic community, Puente is cosponsored by the University of California (which houses and delivers the program through its outreach unit) and the California Community Colleges, with additional funding provided by private foundations. Puente is open to all students.

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