

Puente Team at Merritt College

Jose A. Salceda

Jose is the Puente Counselor and Co-Coordinator. He earned an A.A. in Social and Behavioral Sciences at Napa Valley College, a B.A. in Psychology at San Diego State University and an M.A. in Counseling at Washington State University. He was a first generation, low-income, and underrepresented student and is passionate about his work, guiding and supporting Puente students. He can be reached at jsalceda@peralta.edu

A. Evan Nichols

Evan is an English Professor and Puente Co-Coordinator. He earned his B.A. in Latin American Studies and Spanish Literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz and an M.F.A. in English and Creative Writing (Creative Nonfiction) at Mills College. He has studied and taught in Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Ecuador, South Korea and China. He can be reached at anichols@peralta.edu





Puente at Merritt College

The Puente Project is a national award-winning transfer readiness program co-sponsored by the University of California and the California Community College Chancellor's office. The Puente Project's mission is to increase the number of educationally underserved students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees, and return to their communities as leaders and mentors. Puente has been transforming lives at Merritt College for over twenty years. While the focus is on Latino literature and topics, this program welcomes students from all ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds.

Phase I: Fall Semester

English 201A/B or English 264A/B
Preparation for Composition and Reading
Counseling 224 or 24 (pending)
College Preparedness/College Success

Phase II: Spring Semester

English 1A
Composition and Reading
Counseling 221
Preparing for College/University Transfer



Continuous Academic Guidance

Puente Program

As a student of this program, you will:

- Take a year of accelerated English classes with a curricular focus on Latino literature and experience.
- Take a year of Counseling classes with a curricular focus on ensuring college and transfer success.
- Meet frequently with your Puente counselor to develop and monitor a comprehensive student education plan.
- Visit two select universities each semester to learn about admissions, student life, and academic support programs.
- Attend transfer workshops and network with Puentistas from around the state at the annual Puente Transfer Motivational Conference.
- Meet professionals/mentors from the community who will share their knowledge and experience with you.
- Experience cultural and consciousness-raising events and activities.
- Assist your community through various volunteer projects.

Puente Student Club

The Puente Club is a student-led organization supported by the Associated Students of Merritt College (ASMC). The club meets weekly to organize and plan consciousness-raising events related to race, ethnicity, class, culture, gender, environment, education, and more. These events include Day of the Dead, Cinco de Mayo, Cesar Chavez, Women's History Month, Latina/o Heritage Month, and the Annual Latina/o Student Conference. The Puente Study Room (P-108) is a place to study, get informed and stay connected. This study room is a dedicated study area for Puente students with computers, tutoring opportunities, and a growing library.

ONCE A PUENTISTA ALWAYS A PUENTISTA!