

October 19, 2020

Esteemed Puente Project Partners:

Congratulations on being an awardee of the Seal of Excelencia! We are thrilled that your contributions to increasing the number of Latinx students receiving college degrees have been recognized.

California State University, Sacramento, has made a huge impact in supporting the academic success of Latinx students through a longstanding partnership with Puente. We have shared a powerful organizational alignment in encouraging Latinx students in the pursuit and attainment of degrees in higher education. Puente students have directly benefited from your campus's commitment, investment and passion in ensuring that Latinx students see CSUS as their home and as a place where they can thrive and reach their academic potential.

It is very fitting that you have been given this recognition and honor, given your trajectory of commitment not only to Puente, but to the many organizations that you serve in the Latinx Student Community. Sacramento State University has always demonstrated an excellent level of commitment to ensure that students and their families understand the pathway towards academic success and how it is an attainable goal, particularly in working with first-generation students.

We are grateful for your willingness to be partners with us in both our Puente 9th Grade Leadership and the Transfer Motivational Conferences. Through these programming partnerships, you hosted several thousand students and parents on your campus, mostly Latinx, empowering them with information and a cultural embrace that led many to consider a future at CSUS.

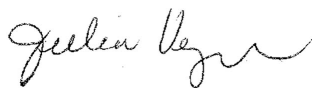
Over the past five years, CSUS has seen a steady increase in Latinx enrollment as a result of the institution's recruitment philosophy, intentional family-oriented approach, and personalized practices. Embedded within the recruitment strategy is a deep understanding of the importance that family plays in Latinx student lives and decision-making. CSUS imbues a cultural sensitivity into the higher education experience that embraces not just the student, but their entire extended family and support network. Furthermore, CSUS has provided this same level of commitment to Spanish-speaking families by offering staffing and information in their native language, with a culturally-relevant perspective. These specialized efforts in supporting Latinx students and their families help CSUS stand out.

We congratulate you also on your on-going support for Transfer students, which has made CSUS one of the top three California university destinations for students transferring from one of the 115 community colleges in the state. CSUS provides intentional support through the transfer process, which includes individualized support. This is particularly important for first-generation students, like Puentistas, to successfully transfer and complete their four-year degrees.

We will continue to partner with CSUS to support your efforts as you continue building the success of the Latinx Community. Your demonstrated commitment merits this prestigious award!

Congratulations nuevamente y en hora Buena!

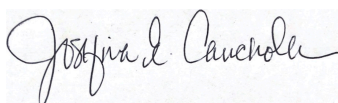
Sincerely,



Julia Vergara,
Puente Co-Executive Director



Jane Allsopp,
Puente Co-Executive Director



Josefina E. Canchola,
Associate Director of Partnerships
Puente Project