

***Catch the Next-Puente- College Success Program***

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***Crossing Bridges, Catching Dreams Newsletter***

*September, 2014 Volume 3. No. 4*

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***Welcome Puente Classes Fall 2014***



**El Paso Community College** Students in Kathleen Bombach’s Integrated Reading and Writing class, with visiting Catch the Next Author Mentor Sergio Troncoso, September 15. “He was outstanding! Very inspiring, I’m ready to start writing ☺ Gracias Sergio!” Lucia M. Rodriguez, Puente Project Director and Director, Office of Student Success El Paso Community College.



South Texas College Integrated Reading and Writing Class pictured with Professor Angelica Cerda kneeling at the front.

Palo Alto College Students working with their familias in the Integrated Reading and Writing class



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### Houston Community College Central Begins its First Year as a Catch the Next- Puente College



Students with Professor Donny Levetson on the right and Lydia French on the left.

### Lee College Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with Poet Sara Cortez



Houston Poet Sara Cortez visited Lee College as part of Hispanic heritage month. She is the author of **Sarah's New Books** [Goodbye, Mexico: Poems of Remembrance](#) "My two greatest loves are poetry and policing. I came to poetry after being published in fiction. I came to policing after fourteen years in a corporate career. Becoming a street cop is the best decision I've ever made. You see it all as a patrolman, and then you go home and make sure it doesn't eat you up. The intuitive decisions cops make and the conciseness of language required are a good substrate for a poet's emergence." (Website) <http://houstonpublicmedia.org/news/local-college-celebrates-hispanic-heritage-month/>

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## Catch the Next Welcomes Two New Puente Team Members to Cohort 2014

**Orlando Lara** is a scholar, artist, and writer. Originally from Houston, he has worked as an educator and immigrant rights organizer. He holds an MFA in fiction from Cornell, an M.A. in anthropology and certificate in culture and media from NYU, and a B.A. in Chicano/Studies from Stanford. He has done work in photography, documentary film, and creative writing. He is currently working on a collection of personal essays and stories having to do with papers, migration, and borders and is a Puente Instructor and Mexican American Studies Faculty at Lee College.



**Francisco Juarez** is the new Puente Mentor Coordinator at El Paso Community College (EPCC). Mr. Juarez has been working with EPCC since May of 2008. He is presently the lead instructor and Coordinator for the Texas Peace Officer Program at EPCC Law Enforcement Training Academy. Prior to joining EPCC, Mr. Juarez served 22 years with El Paso Police Department where he retired as a Police Sergeant. Mr. Juarez is a graduate of Park University where he received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. He received his Master of Arts in Management & Leadership and Human Resources Development from Webster's University.

### Team Members Present at the College Academic Support Programs Conference



Catch the Next- Puente team members presented a workshop at the College Academic Support Programs Conference San Antonio Texas, September 25. Representing our team left to right: Professor Daniel Rodriguez, and Diane Lerma, Palo Alto College, Professor Angelica Cerda, South Texas College, Professor Yolanda Reyna, Palo Alto College and Dr. Maria Chavez, Texas Puente Director, Catch the Next, Inc. The conference was sponsored by the Texas College Reading and Learning Association, The Texas Association of Developmental Education, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The title of the presentation was: "Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice: Puente Integrated Reading and Writing Framework."



## Catch the Next Welcomes New Scholar Mentor Dr. Amaury Nora

Dr. Amaury Nora is Professor of Higher Education, Co-Director of the Center for Research and Policy in Education, UTSA Executive Director for Research Integrity, and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is also Editor of *The Review of Higher Education*, the journal for the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). Dr. Nora was inducted into the Class of 2009 as an AERA Fellow for his scholarship in the field of higher education. His research has focused on theoretical perspectives related to student persistence, the role of college on diverse student populations across different types of institutions, and the development of retention models that integrate economic theories and psychosocial perspectives within college persistence frameworks. The extent of his inquiries has contributed to traditional as well as non-traditional lines of research on college student persistence. Nora has served on the editorial boards of *Research in Higher Education*, *The Review of Higher Education*, *The Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education* and *The Journal of College Student Retention: Research and Theory*. Dr. Nora is currently a member of a Technical Review Panel for the U.S. Department of Education, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), and the National Science Foundation (NSF) focused on the national Educational Longitudinal Study, 2000 – 2012. His recent works include: *A Re-Conceptualization of Student Engagement* (2011); *Hispanics and Higher Education: An Overview of Research, Theory and Practice* (2009); *Technology and Higher Education: The Impact of e-learning Approaches on Student Academic Achievement, Perceptions and Persistence* (2008). *Mentoring Students: Conceptualizing and Validating the Multi-Dimensions of a Support System* (2008); *Examining the Tangible and Psychosocial Benefits of Financial Aid with Student Access, Engagement and Degree Attainment* (2006); *The Role of Habitus and Cultural Capital in Choosing a College, Transitioning from High School to Higher Education, and Persisting in College Among Minority and Non-Minority Students* (2004); *The Depiction of Significant Others in Tinto's "Rites of Passage:" A Reconceptualization of the Influence of Family and Community in the Persistence Process* (2002); *How Minority Students Finance their Higher Education* (2001); *Access, Choice, and Outcomes: A Profile of Hispanic Students in Higher Education* (1999); *The Current Status of Undergraduate Latina/os in Four-Year Colleges and Universities* (2005); and *Access to Higher Education for Hispanic Students: Real or Illusory?*(2003).

### ***Teaching and Learning for Student Success Teleconferences***

On a monthly basis, Puentistas across Texas, California and New York convene to discuss promising practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Puente framework in Texas. Sessions are led by a CTN Puente Fellow, and oftentimes a guest speaker will join the group. Teleconferences are held the third Thursday of each month at the same time, same phone line. Everyone is welcome. To access the call dial: dial in # [1-267-507-0240](tel:1-267-507-0240) code: 519698.

### **Thank you Oscar**

On September 18 Oscar Casares joined Puentistas for our monthly teleconference: Teaching and Learning for Student Success. Oscar Casares is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Center for Mexican American Studies at UT Austin. His collection of stories, *Brownsville*, was selected by American Library Association as a Notable Book of 2004. His first novel, *Amigoland*, received a “starred “review from Publisher’s Weekly, which called it a “winning novel.” Audio recording is available for those interested. Contact: [Mariamarthachavez@catchthenext.org](mailto:Mariamarthachavez@catchthenext.org)



## Save the Date

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**October 16, 2014, Dr. Ann Marie Nunez** will be our guest speaker for our monthly teleconference. Dr. Nunez is an Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Texas at San Antonio to the Puente Familia as one of its new Scholar Mentors. Dr. Nunez scholarship focuses on college choice, college outreach and college transition. Her publication, Núñez, A.-M., & Elizondo, D. (2013). *Closing the Latino/a Transfer Gap: Creating Pathways to the Baccalaureate*. San Antonio: American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education, Educational Testing Service, and University of Texas at San Antonio speaks about **the Puente Program in California and Texas**. Other selected publications from Dr. Nunez:

Crisp, G., & **Nunez, A.-M.** (In press). Understanding the racial transfer gap: Modeling underrepresented minority and non-minority students' pathways from 2-year to 4-year institutions. *Review of Higher Education*. [Research Line: C]

**Nunez, A.-M.** (2009). Latino students' college transitions: A social and intercultural capital perspective. *Harvard Educational Review*, 79(1), 22-48. [Research Line: C]

<http://search.proquest.com/docview/212269363?accountid=7122>

**Núñez, A.-M.**, & Murakami-Ramalho, E. (2012). The demographic dividend: Why the success of Latino faculty and students is critical. *Academe*, 98(1), 32-37. [Research Line: C]

<http://www.aaup.org/AAUP/pubsres/academe/2012/JF/Feat/nune.htm>

**Núñez, A.-M.** (2009). A critical paradox?: Predictors of Latino students' sense of belonging in college. *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, 2(1), 46-61. [Research Line: C] doi: 10.1037/a0014099

**Núñez, A.-M.**, Crisp, G., & Elizondo, D. (2012). *Hispanic Transfer in Two-Year Hispanic-Serving Institutions*.

White Paper prepared for Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU): San Antonio, TX.

[http://www.hacu.net/images/hacu/OPAI/H3ERC/2012\\_papers/Nunez%20crisp%20elizondo%20-%2020year%20hsi%20characteristics%20-%202012.pdf](http://www.hacu.net/images/hacu/OPAI/H3ERC/2012_papers/Nunez%20crisp%20elizondo%20-%2020year%20hsi%20characteristics%20-%202012.pdf)

**Núñez, A.-M.** (2011). Counterspaces and connections in college transitions: first-generation Latino students' perspectives on Chicano studies. *Journal of College Student Development*, 52(6), 639-655. [Research Line: C] doi: 10.1353/csd.2011.0077

Choy, S., Horn, L., **Núñez, A.-M.**, & Chen, X. (2000). Transition to college: What helps at-risk students and students whose parents did not attend college. In A. Cabrera & S. La Nasa (Eds.), *Understanding the college choice of disadvantaged students*, (pp. 45-63), New Directions for Institutional Research, no. 107. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass. [Research Line: C] <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ir.10704/pdf>

**Núñez, A.-M.**, Murakami, E., & Cuero, K. (2010). Pedagogy for equity: Teaching in a Hispanic-Serving Institution. *Innovative Higher Education*, 35(3), 177-190. [Research Line: C] doi: 10.1007/s10755-010-9139-7

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### November -- Patricia McGrath Puente Project Co-Founder!!

Pat McGrath, an English instructor in 1981 along with her colleague Felix Galaviz saw the need for support services for their underserved students at Chabot College in California and created the Puente framework. McGrath and Galaviz saw a common lack of direction and engagement from the students as well as poor academic skills, especially in writing, and an elevated dropout rate. On a paper napkin, Galaviz and McGrath drew a Venn diagram, highlighting the three components they believed were critical to motivating and supporting Latino students in achieving academic success: writing, counseling and mentoring. The rest is history. Learn more by joining our call with Pat.



### Save the Date : October 18, 2014 Pulitzer Prize Winner

Author Mentor **Sonia Nazario** will be speaking at South Texas College in McAllen Texas October 18, 2014.

Sonia Nazario, author of *Enrique's Journey* (about an unaccompanied child from Honduras crossing borders to find his mother in the U.S.), is the foremost figure at the moment on the child refugees coming to the US. She was recently on television as she testified for the US Senate about the Latino child refugee crisis, as well as many other television talk shows and interviews. For more than 20 years, Ms. Nazario has won numerous national journalism and book awards reporting and writing about large social issues in the U.S.: hunger; drug addiction; and immigration. She is a projects reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*. "*Enrique's Journey*," won more than a dozen awards, besides the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing, the George

Polk Award for International Reporting, the Grand Prize of the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and the National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award for Overall Excellence., *Enrique's Journey* became a national bestseller, and became a favorite among educators. It has been required reading for incoming freshman at more than 71 colleges, and scores of high schools; a young adult version, published in 2014, has broadened the book's use to middle schools. Sonia Nazario [www.enriquesjourney.com](http://www.enriquesjourney.com)

**10:00am - 11:00a**) Meeting with faculty to discuss lesson plans for her book, *Enrique's Journey*.

**11:00am - 12:00am** (RECEPTION) Sonia walks around "visiting" each table as the students enjoy their *pan dulce*, coffee/punch. (Q & A while she visits each table)

**12:00pm - 1:00pm** Lecture \* Allot time for book purchases and book signing after the lecture

**For more information contact:** [apcerda@southtexascollege.edu](mailto:apcerda@southtexascollege.edu) or [schief@southtexascollege.edu](mailto:schief@southtexascollege.edu)

## Upcoming Events

# Puente Fall Institute to be Held in Houston Texas

The Puente fall Institute and the Puente Fellows Train the Trainer Session will be held in Houston Texas at the Crowne Plaza Downtown (Crowne Plaza Downtown Houston- 1700 Smith Street\*Houston TX,\* 77002) from October 8 to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October. For more information contact:

[Mariamarthachavez@catchthenext.org](mailto:Mariamarthachavez@catchthenext.org)

## Catch the Next- Puente Fall Institute Reception

Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup>

5:30- 7:30 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Downtown Houston  
1700 Smith Street\*Houston TX,\* 77002

[www.cpdowntown.com](http://www.cpdowntown.com)

(713) 739-8800

### Agenda

Greetings	Maria Martha Chavez, Catch the Next- Puente Texas Director
Welcome	<b>John Siceloff, President Catch the Next, Inc.</b> <i>Introduced by: Irma Camacho, Puente Fellow, El Paso Community College</i>
Welcome to Gulf Coast	<b>Dennis Brown, President Lee College, Baytown Texas. CTN Board</b> <i>Introduced by: Treva Brown Askey, Instructor, Lee College</i>  <b>Dr. William Harmon, President of Houston Community College-- Central College.</b> <i>Introduced by Lydia French, Professor, Central College-Houston</i>
Remarks	<b>Frank Garcia, Puente Project Director, UC Berkeley.</b> <i>Introduced by Debra McBeath, Puente Fellow, Palo Alto College</i>
Keynote	<b>Dr. Guadalupe San Miguel</b> <i>Introduced by Rafael Castillo, CTN and Palo Alto College</i>
Reading	<b>Erica Nava jar, Houston, Texas.</b> <i>Introduced by Esmeralda Macias, Puente Fellow, South Texas College</i>
Poetry reading	<b>Lupe Mendez, Houston, Texas.</b> <i>Introduced by Stacy Ybarra, Catch the Next and Palo Alto College</i>
Music	<b>Roberto Rodriguez</b> <i>Introduced by Angelica Cerda, Puente Fellow, South Texas College</i>

### Upcoming Events California Puente



**Puente Motivational Conference:** The purpose of the Puente Motivational Conference is to introduce students to a university campus, as well as to expose them to leaders in various fields, relevant topics and issues, and the transfer process. This year the conference will be held at UC San Diego on October 18th. The conference begins at 8 and ends typically between 3-4. This year, we will host close to 1000 students, and Puente faculty in Southern CA (the Northern CA Conference is only a week away). If you are interested, please let me know. Furthermore, with enough notice some of our team members might be able to house you or we can also provide you a list of hotels in the immediate area.

**The Xicano Institute for Teaching and Organizing--XITO** There is another training opportunity and we would like to extend an invitation to our Texas Faculty. This is not a Puente training, but it is co-sponsored by Puente and Napa Valley College. The Xicano Institute for Teaching and Organizing--XITO--from Prescott College in Prescott, Arizona will be providing training to Puente Faculty and Mexican American Faculty from Fresno City College. XITO's customary training costs \$600 but they have kindly adjusted their fees for Puente faculty and familia! Lastly, I think this training will not only provide you with great classroom curriculum but will further develop your train-the-trainer portfolio.

The training will be held in Napa Valley College, and there are 50 slots available, but they may fill-up quickly and it is on a first-come first-serve basis. The cost to attend is \$300 and covers materials and breakfast and lunch on Nov 13 and Nov 14. This does not cover the cost of overnight hotel accommodations, which we will try to keep about \$130/night, you may also share rooms to bring the cost.

Here is the XITO training and the registration for anyone that wants to join us. XITO is handling the payments for the training.

[https://docs.google.com/a/berkeley.edu/forms/d/1qQMGO5Pnqnta85MIY-WHqH-8rAT2\\_BeiYv0tmbkz\\_vE/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/berkeley.edu/forms/d/1qQMGO5Pnqnta85MIY-WHqH-8rAT2_BeiYv0tmbkz_vE/viewform)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! Once again, we are in the process of securing hotel rooms but we also encourage you to look on your own for hotels near Napa College. You might be able to secure a better rate. The address of the college is **2277 Napa Vallejo Hwy, Napa, CA 94558**. There are several hotels in the immediate area. You can fly into Oakland or San Francisco. If you plan on flying to Oakland on November 12 - I will be more than happy to provide transportation to and from the conference location.

In Puente Spirit,

Julia Vergara, Associate Director, Community College Programs & Training, The Puente Project Center for Educational Partnerships Division of Equity and Inclusion, University of California Berkeley



## **El Paso Community College Finalists for 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence**

Aspen Institute announced that El Paso Community College previously recognized as an Example of Excelencia initiative has been selected as **finalists** for the 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. El Paso Community College, the 2011 Example of Excelencia in the Associate category for its **Early College High School Initiative** could be chosen as the grand prize winner or one of the four finalists-with-distinction by the Washington-based Aspen Institute in March of 2015.

### **Houston Staff Represent CTN-Puente at the Pathways to Progress Conference.**

**Dr. Maria Straus** represented the Catch the Next Puente Program at the Pathways to progress conference along with Dr. Suzanne Morales Vale from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The two were part of a panel on Texas Success Initiatives.

### **Excelencia in Education Celebrates Ten years**

**Sept. 30, 2014** Excelencia in Education held The *Celebración de Excelencia* event at St Regis Hotel, Washington D.C. Where the national announcement of the 2014 Examples of Excelencia were given out. The award is presented in collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). Excelencia in Education is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization with the mission of accelerating Latino student success in higher education. Excelencia is led by Catch the Next, Inc. Board Member Sarita Brown.



### **The Catch the Next-Puente Program in Texas was nominated as an example of Excelencia.**

**October 1, 2014 7:30am - 5:00pm** The ALASS Workshop was held and Former Palo Alto College Puente Mentor Rosie Castro spoke with her son Joaquin Castro who represents San Antonio Texas, one of our Puente Cities in Congress. They spoke about about effective advocacy of Latino Student Success and the need for everyone to know the DNA of the educational infrastructure available to help all of our students succeed.



# Texas Puente Project - Professional Development Opportunities

The following professional development opportunities encourage engagement, demonstrate application of technology, grant and funding opportunities, conference opportunities and relevant information of theory, research and practice of wonderful ways to exemplify the academic and cultural approaches that welcome and socialize Latino students to college while increasing their persistence, self-esteem, academic success and transfer rates through the Puente Project. I encourage you to forward any information that would provide wonderful opportunities to our team by emailing me at [stacy.ybarra@catchthenext.org](mailto:stacy.ybarra@catchthenext.org).  
Professional Development Coordinator Catch The Next

Date Added	Activity	Description – Link/Website
8/28/2014	Call for Proposals	American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) Conference. Call for Proposals and Fellowship March 2015 <a href="http://www.aahhe.org/conference/annualconference.aspx">http://www.aahhe.org/conference/annualconference.aspx</a>
8/28/2014	Scholarship	SACNAS – Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos & Native Americans in Science Travel Scholarship October 16 - 18 <a href="http://sacnas.org/events/national-conf/travel-scholarships">http://sacnas.org/events/national-conf/travel-scholarships</a>
8/28/2014	Call for Proposals	Annual First Year Experience Conference February 7-10, 2015 Dallas, Texas <a href="http://www.sc.edu/fye/annual/proposal.html">http://www.sc.edu/fye/annual/proposal.html</a>
8/28/2014	Manuscript	Journal of Hispanic Higher Education Manuscript Submissions <a href="http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal201513/manuscriptSubmission">http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal201513/manuscriptSubmission</a>
7/20/2014	Student Conference	Adelante U.S. Education Leadership Fund Student Conference <i>November 2014</i> Visit Website: <a href="http://www.adelantefund.org/">http://www.adelantefund.org/</a>
9/29/2014	Proposal Submission	2015 NAFSA Conference Poster Proposals Being Accepted Deadline: 12/15/2014 <a href="http://www.nafsa.org/Attend%20Events/Annual%20Conference/Call%20For%20Proposals/Poster%20Fair%20Guidelines/">http://www.nafsa.org/Attend Events/Annual Conference/Call For Proposals/Poster Fair Guidelines/</a>
9/29/2014	Excellence Awards	2015 NASPA Excellence Awards Deadline: October 17, 2014 <a href="http://www.naspa.org/about/awards/excellence-awards">http://www.naspa.org/about/awards/excellence-awards</a>
9/29/2014	Scholarships	CHCI Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Scholarships Opening Soon <a href="http://www.chci.org/scholarships/">http://www.chci.org/scholarships/</a>
9/29/2014	Scholarships	Rotary Scholarship – To be Opened in October Must be resident of South Texas <a href="http://www.rotarysa.org/Scholarships.cfm">http://www.rotarysa.org/Scholarships.cfm</a>

9/29/2014	Conference	<b>Texas A&amp;M Assessment Conference</b> <b>February 22-24, 2015</b> <b>Call for Proposals</b> <a href="https://assessment.tamu.edu/conference/2015_proposal_call.html">https://assessment.tamu.edu/conference/2015_proposal_call.html</a>
9/29/2014	Conference	<b>Texas University and College Counseling Center Conference</b> <b>University of Texas at Austin</b> <b>Program Submission Form – Registration Fee is Waived For All Presenters</b> <a href="http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/TUCCCC/proposals.html">http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/TUCCCC/proposals.html</a>
9/29/2014	Conference	<b>NACADA Region 7 Call For Proposals</b> <b>Due 11/15/2014</b> <a href="http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Events-Programs/Events/Region-Conferences/Region-7/proposals.aspx">http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Events-Programs/Events/Region-Conferences/Region-7/proposals.aspx</a>

### Interesting Reading:

#### *Black + Brown: Institutions of Higher Education*

*Excelencia* in Education, in partnership with the United Negro College Fund - Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute, released a new analysis to bring intentional focus to strengthening student success. While historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs) represent 20 percent of all institutions in the nation, these institutions educate nearly half of all black and Latino students. Many of these students are low-income and first-generation college attendees. Given the population growth of these students overall, both HSIs and HBCUs are in a distinct position to help move the country's college completion agenda forward. Therefore, showing the commonalities between these two groups of institutions can be beneficial in raising policy awareness about Latino and black students and the institutions serving them. **Read** the report.



#### White House Convening on College Readiness

I recently attended a White House convening on college readiness where higher education leaders and innovators discussed the incredible work underway to transform developmental education from a significant student roadblock into a launch pad for student success. We discussed a suite of interventions that can work effectively for all students, and that have significant impact when implemented together. I invite you to **read more about the convening** and stay tuned for more developmental education news as part of our continuing series discussing our major areas of emphasis.

Regards,  
 Dan Greenstein Gates Foundations  
 @dan\_greenstein

## **CONTRIBUTING PICTURES/ARTICLES**

Stacy Ybarra, Lucia Rodriguez, Rafael Castillo, Angelica Cerda, Diane Lerma, Victoria Marron, Julia Vergara, Stevan Schiefelbein,

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SUBMIT STORIES AND PICTURES CONTACT:**

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