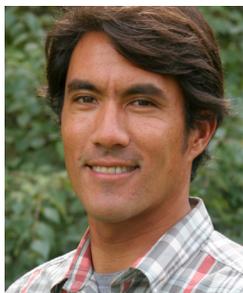


Meet the CSM Puente Project Coordinators



Jon Kitamura
English Professor

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Building 15 Room 103
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Jon began teaching at CSM fresh out of graduate school in 2005. Jon has worked collaboratively and taught in numerous learning communities at CSM, including 'Voices of a Stranger' and 'Writing in the End Zone,' an award-winning program that supports CSM football players. Jon hopes to assist students in developing their academic identities and equip them with the skills necessary to navigate their college education and participate in a democratic society.



Lorena Gonzalez
Counselor/Professor

M.A. Notre Dame de Namur, B.A. UC Berkeley
Psychology & Chicano Studies, Minor in Education
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Lorena began her career at CSM in 1999 as an EOPS program services coordinator. Throughout her years at CSM, she has participated in various college committees such as Diversity In Action Group, Basic Skills Initiative, Student Equity Report, Educational Master Plan and Student Support, and is a former BSI coordinator. Lorena regularly attends professional development events that support and enhance her work to meet the holistic needs of the students she serves.

College of San Mateo

Be A CSM Puente Mentor!



Join us in helping our College of San Mateo Puente students meet their educational goals...

P U E N T E
¡Transfer: Sí Se Puede!

Puente Curriculum

Puente Project is a one-year linked English/counseling transfer support program recognized nationally and sponsored by the University of California. Puente, meaning 'bridge' in Spanish, is symbolic of how the Puente Project serves as a bridge for the Puente student, both from their home culture to academia and from community college to transferring to a university. The Puente model integrates counseling/English/mentoring as the foundation for supporting students in completing the Puente mission of:

- Transferring to a university
- Earning college degrees
- Returning to their community as leaders



Who Are Our Puente Students?

The Puente students at College of San Mateo are typically first-generation college students with diverse educational and career interests. Many of them also work while attending college to fund their educational expenses and contribute to family household expenses. Puente students accept the commitment of a one-year linked English and counseling transfer learning community that focuses on Latino literature and experiences. In this year, Puentistas complete a pre-transfer and transfer-level English course, two counseling courses, and participate in field trips and activities that promote collaboration, interpersonal skills, team building, critical thinking, cultural identity, and preparedness for transferring to a university. These activities include working closely with the Puente counselor, participating in fieldtrips and activities, and engaging in mentoring activities.



Puente Mentor Experience

CSM's Puente Project is continuously seeking mentors! As a mentor, you will make a difference in a Puente student's life by:

- Developing a genuine encouraging relationship
- Sharing your academic and career experiences
- Providing encouragement and support to maintain an academic focus
- Validating Puente students' strengths and potential as future professionals
- Sharing strategies to overcome obstacles
- Motivating Puente students to complete transfer goals
- Serving as an additional resource as needed

Puente Mentor Expectations

- Complete Puente Mentor Profile form online by visiting collegeofsanmateo.edu/puente
- Attend a Puente Mentor orientation/training session
- Meet with and maintain contact with your Puente mentee
- Attend Puente student/mentor mixer
- Attend Noche de Familia (Fall-November) and End of the Year Celebration (Spring-May)