



EVERGREEN VALLEY COLLEGE



## Summer Recap Work & Sunshine

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### **Enlace Math Summer Bridge Program** By Enlace Math Professor Cynthia Burnham

The Enlace Program is excited to offer an accelerated track that allows students to complete remedial mathematics in one intensive semester and a summer workshop. Since remedial mathematics currently takes up to four semesters, this program will shorten the path to a college level math course. We believe this is a promising pathway that will increase the retention and success rates by keeping students focused and offering a desirable goal within reach.

Enlace started a pilot in 2015, offering a Math Summer Bridge Program that covered basic mathematics through lecture, group work and ALEKS, an online tutoring and assessment program. In fall 2015, Enlace offered Math 111 during the first eight weeks of the semester, and Math 13 during the second eight weeks of the semester, again through lecture, group work, and ALEKS. The success rates were 63% for the Summer Bridge Program, 90% for Math 111 and 74% for Math 13. Thus far, the success rates indicate that pairing the Bridge program and the accelerated pathway sets up students for increased success in less time.

This summer, the Basic Skills Initiative funded the Enlace Summer Bridge Program. The success was 60%, and these students currently are enrolled in the Enlace accelerated track of Math 111/13 for the fall.

As we are encouraged by the results so far, we will continue to offer the accelerated track and look forward to having enough data for a longitudinal study.



## Autumn Glory What are we up to now?

### **Enlace Now- Message from the Chair**

After years of being the Enlace chair, Richard Regua retired, and the chair position currently is shared among two faculty members, Dr. Mirella Burton and Elaine Ortiz Kristich. We congratulate Professor Richard Regua with his retirement and commend him for all that he has done for the Enlace Program.

The Enlace Mentor Advisory Board Members have worked to provide a historical document explaining why and how Enlace evolved at EVC. The focus remains the same today as it did in the past; to enhance Chican@/Latin@ student success by offering cultural specific, learning community, and student empowerment pedagogy along with "cognitive core curriculum" offerings in English, math, and science. The intent to offer core curriculum is to increase Enlace students to transfer from EVC to a university of their choice. Enlace is in agreement that a historical reference is of great value to all new students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Historical documentation provides a clear perspective of how the community is very much interested in how Chican@/Latin@ students are progressing at EVC. Historical documentation will be posted at a later date on our homepage.



From left to right: Ash Kalra, Dave Cortese, Dr. George Castro, Richard Regua, Elaine Ortiz-Kristich, Victor Garza, Paul Fong, Maria Fuentes

Enlace continues to provide cultural celebrations, enhanced transfer opportunities, faculty, staff, and Mentor Advisory Board retreats. Enlace has established community network opportunities for Enlace students; such as Enlace Honors Society, scholarships, and as the advisor to two student clubs; Enlace Student Association and SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science). During the summer of 2015 SACNAS students were provided an internship opportunity with NASA

Ames Research where Enlace students worked on the Arduino Project. SACNAS STEM students fundraised and were able to attend the SACNAS National Conference in Washington D.C. during October 29-31. Enlace was proud to see these students share their experiences to the Board of Trustees and hold a panel discussion at SJCC.

During fall 2015 the five-year Cambios grant of 2.8 million had sunset; the grant provided tutors, book vouchers for students, staff development funding, library books and videos. The funding was shared throughout the campus to accelerate the academic success of EVC Latin@s and other underserved students.

UCSC is now a Hispanic Serving Institution, and they allocated Enlace a one-time fund to increase Chican@/Latin@ student transfers. On May 24, 2016, Enlace, along with UCSC teamed up and sponsored an EVC Counselor campus tour which provided excellent student transfer information. Enlace looks forward to a continual working relationship with UCSC. Our intent is to excel Enlace student transfer opportunities!



## La Raza Roundtable Gala

By: Elaine Ortiz-Kristich

On August 26, 2016, the Enlace Program was recognized for their continual commitment to providing exceptional educational opportunities to Chican@/Latin@ students at the first Inaugural Spirit Awards Gala sponsored by La Raza Roundtable. At the Mexican Heritage Plaza the SJECCD Chancellor Debbie Budd spoke about students within our district, the award was received by Elaine Ortiz Kristich on behalf of the Enlace students, staff, faculty, and community mentors. Enlace student Ms. Kimberly Tapia, president of the Enlace Student Association, presented testimonials from Enlace student transfers on how the program has supported their educational endeavors. This event sold out and attended by community members such as San José Chief of Police Eddie Garcia, Honorable Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, Senator Jim Beall, Latino Education Summit, local politicians, and Don Victor Garza. The Enlace Program continues to be supported by the community.





## Enlace Welcomes Back Frank Tello

We would like to welcome back former Enlace student Frank Tello. Frank earned a degree from UC Santa Cruz where he was also the Karl S. Pister scholarship recipient. He is now teaching English at EVC and will teach Enlace English 1A and English 1C next semester. The Enlace Program is excited to have Enlace students return and give back to the community.

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## Science at Enlace

By: Al Gonzalez

The 2015-2016 Enlace science component was productive. The program received new editions of science books. The students enrolled in either the environmental science or human heredity (genetics) courses receive free use of the new books throughout the semester. Also, the human heredity course received forensic science kits, further enriching the student's academic background with a hands-on approach to the lecture content. Offered for the first time for Spring 2016, is the human heredity course, as a hybrid section. This hybridization allows for 1.5 hours of on-campus lecture and 1.5 hours of "synchronized" computer chat discussion per week. The course was a success, and many students stated that the schedule was flexible and allowed them to complete their studies and manage their weekly off-campus work schedule. The program will return to its standard format of 3.0 hours of on-campus lecture per week. Due to a schedule modification as a result of a year-long family, medical leave of absence by Enlace Biology Professor, Al Gonzalez; teaching the Enlace environmental science course was an adjunct faculty member, Professor Karen Moody. Professor Gonzalez is excited to return and will resume his full-time teaching assignment come Fall 2016.



The summer 2016 Enlace environmental science course had the lowest enrollment ever but still served many students from the surrounding communities. Possibly, this may have resulted because of robust employment in the Bay area and the student's desire to generate income during the academic off-season. Nonetheless, Enlace will continue to provide resources, opportunities and academic achievement to those who seek out the program staff and faculty. As always, the program personnel wants to help anyone with matriculation, job placement, and mentorship. If any Enlace alumni desire to become a science, technology, engineering and mathematic mentors to our students, please contact our coordinator Mayra Garcia.

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# Program Updates

A message from Enlace's Program Coordinator

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Hello! My name is Mayra Garcia, and I have been the Enlace Program Coordinator since 2014. I began my journey as a first generation college student at Evergreen Valley College and with the Enlace Program in 2007. In 2012, I transferred to Santa Clara University where I earned a B.S in Sociology in 2014. Soon after graduation I joined the Enlace team as the Interim Program Coordinator and later that year, I was offered the permanent position. 2015-2016 was a busy year for Enlace. Various workshops were hosted by and for Enlace students. The workshops were as follows: EVC SACNAS Student Panel: Arduino Project, CSU application, Educators for Fair Consideration, FAFSA, the Chicana/Latina Foundation Scholarship, and Transfer 101.

Additionally, this year we had 90 Enlace graduating students. I had the honor of being part of the 2016 Enlace Student Success Celebration where 63 of our graduating students and their families were in attendance. Some of the schools that our students transferred to include: San Jose State University, CSU East Bay, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, University of Oregon, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Los Angeles, UC Santa Cruz, and UC Santa Barbara.



Although the semester just started I am excited to continue working with the Enlace Student Association (E.S.A) as their co-advisor. ESA strives to help meet the educational, social, and cultural needs of Latin@ students at Evergreen Valley College. This year we have five high achieving students as our ESA officers: Kimberly Tapia (President), Yuleiby Garcia Limon (Vice-President), Sussane Aguilar (Treasurer), Nina Zamora (Secretary), and Kalena Zamora (Historian). During the summer we had our ESA officers' retreat where we began with team bonding activities at Mount Hermon Adventures (ropes course) and then finished at UC Santa Cruz planning our activities for the fall. Hopefully some of you can join us for our activities!



I've made a full circle since I first set foot at Evergreen Valley College, first being an Enlace student and now returning as a staff member for the program. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with everyone. Please feel free to stop by my office

or email me if you have any questions or would just like to meet in person. My email is [mayra.garcia@evc.edu](mailto:mayra.garcia@evc.edu) and my office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5pm.

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## **Enlace Program**

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