Program Introduction

The Enlace Program, which began in 1983 at Evergreen Valley College, represents an alternative approach to meeting the educational needs of Chican@/Latin@ students. The name *enlace* is derived from the Spanish word *enlazar*, which means “to bind or connect”, “to create community”. The Enlace community consists of a team of college staff and community mentors with the program mission of helping Chican@/Latin@ students succeed. Enlace services include academic classes and tutoring support, counseling, and community mentoring. The Enlace college staff consists of English Professors, Math Professor, Science Professor, Program Counselor, Program Chair, Co-Chair, and Program Coordinator. Two coordinating bodies contribute to meeting the program’s mission: the Enlace coordinating Committee (ECC) and the Mentor Advisory Council (MAC).

The Primary Program Goals

- To enable Chican@/Latin@ students to successfully complete the Enlace English, Math, and Science courses
- To mainstream students into the general education and transfer curricula
- To successfully retain and matriculate Chican@/Latin@ students
- To increase the number of Chican@/Latin@ students who graduate with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree
- To increase the number of Chican@/Latin@ students who transfer to four year colleges and universities
The Mentor Project

The Enlace English 1A Mentor Project has several steps. First, the students review a list of all mentors to select their choices. After the Program Coordinator matches the students with their mentor, the students receive a mentor profile form. The students then send a letter of introduction to the mentor, followed by a phone call to set an interview date. Once the students complete the interview, they compose their mentor papers. To complete the project, students complete an evaluation of the entire assignment.

A. Initial Contact

In their Enlace English 1A course, students receive a mentor profile form of their assigned mentor. The profile information is used by the student to write a letter of introduction; this letter is followed with a telephone call from the student to arrange an interview date. During this same time period, mentors receive a letter from the Enlace Mentor Coordinator which identifies their assigned student(s). The letter also gives the mentors the approximate dates to expect the student letter of introduction and the telephone call.

B. The Interview

- Allow for an informal introductory session
- Schedule a minimum of one hour for the interview
- If possible, offer the student an opportunity to observe the mentor during work hours
- Conduct a tour of the mentor’s work facilities
- Consider follow-up interviews
C. Sample Mentor Interview Questions

The following questions serve as core questions for the mentor interview. Students develop additional questions based upon their own interests and ask spontaneous or follow up questions during the interview.

**Core Questions**

- How did your family react when you told them you wanted to complete a college education? Did this reaction change as you continued to study?
- Did you ever feel like quitting school? What made you change your mind?
- Roughly, what was the average amount of time you spent studying in a normal week or day? How was your social life affected?
- Did you research career choices before you chose yours? How many career choices did you have?
- Why did you choose this career? Who helped you make your career choice? Was it your first major in college? Was your major oriented to your present career?
- How long did it take for you to attain your present career? Do you still have other career goals to reach?
- What would you say to a Chican@/Latin@ student who worries about facing discrimination in college and/or the work world? If you have faced discrimination in your career, how did you overcome it?
- Did you ever experience “culture shock” in either your profession or in your education? If so, how did you resolve this experience?
- Are you presently involved in community or professional organizations? What are the organizations in which you are involved?
- What advice would you give me as I pursue my education and career?

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**Mentor Commitment**

Many times, mentors and students maintain communication beyond the interview assignment. The mentors can provide students with continued guidance and friendship while the students move toward their goals.

**Uniqueness**

The main point is that each mentor/student relationship is unique. This uniqueness is what makes each experience so valuable and exciting for both the student and the mentor.
How to become an Enlace Mentor

Contact the Enlace Program Coordinator
408-274-7900 ext. 6598
EVC R5-132
Meet with the Enlace Chair/Co-Chair
Complete Enlace Mentor Application
Attend the Enlace Mentor Orientation

Benefits of Being an Enlace Mentor

Instill educational values
Give back guidance you once received
Make a difference in a student’s life
Gain a sense of fulfillment
A great opportunity for giving back to your community!