

SPRING 2023 HSI LANZAMIENTO SPRING PD SERIES

HOSTED BY PUENTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PUENTE'S CORE PEDAGOGIES: Cariño & Culturally Affirming Classrooms

with Paula Silva, The Puente Project &
Elsie Rivas Gomez, The Puente Project & PCC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27th, 10AM - 12PM: [Watch here](#)



TEACHING THE WHOLE STUDENT: Identity & Intersectionality

with Anthony Blacksher, San Bernardino Valley College
Erica Brenes, El Camino College

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 10AM - 12PM: [JOIN HERE](#)



COMMUNITY CARE: Wellness & Basic Needs Across the Curriculum

with Kristin Land, Chabot College
Sandra Generea, ChabotChabot College

FRIDAY, MARCH 17th, 10AM - 12PM: [JOIN HERE](#)



RECLAIMING STEM LEGACY: Understanding and Nurturing Belonging in STEM

with Melva Alvarez, Pasadena City College
Melissa Aguilar, De Anza College

FRIDAY, APRIL 28th, 10AM - 12PM: [JOIN HERE](#)

HSI Lanzamiento Faculty: Join us for this exciting Professional Development series facilitated by Puente's cadre of faculty trainers! These culturally grounded, equity centered and interdisciplinary sessions will support your work with HSI target students and energize you for the work ahead.

Questions? Contact llarque@santarosa.edu



SANTA ROSA
JUNIOR COLLEGE

PUENTE



SPEAKER BIOS

PAULA SILVA

Paula Silva is the Director of Professional Development for the Puente Project statewide office where she imagines, plans and implements culturally responsive professional development for community college faculty with the intent of creating more humane and equitable educational spaces for underrepresented students. Prior to joining the Puente team, she taught English in California Community Colleges for 13 years, including as a Puente instructor. Paula is a first-generation college student, queer Chicana who found her own voice in a community college Puente classroom at City College of San Francisco where she earned her first college degree.

ELSIE RIVAS GOMEZ

Elsie Rivas Gomez is an Associate Professor of English and Puente Project Co-Coordinator at Pasadena City College, where she has taught full-time since 2005. She also serves the Puente Project statewide as Professional Development Coordinator. As an educator committed to social justice, she has developed expertise in culturally responsive curriculum, the pedagogy of *cariño*, anti-racist practices, and community building. Elsie Rivas Gomez was born in San Salvador, El Salvador, and was raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She earned her B.A. in English and B.S. in Psychology from Santa Clara University, as well as an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from San Diego State University.

ANTHONY BLACKSHER, PHD

Dr. Anthony Blacksher is an associate professor and the department chair of sociology at San Bernardino Valley College. He teaches courses based on race and ethnic relations, crime and criminal justice, and social problems. Prior to receiving his doctorate in cultural studies from Claremont Graduate University, he helped bring San Diego's spoken word poetry community to national prominence. Dr. Blacksher continues to research and perform poetry while raising his amazing daughters. He writes and performs regularly with the performance art collective *bkSoul*, producing collaborative theater for social justice. Dr. Blacksher also serves as the publisher of the San Diego Poetry Annual. An avid vinyl record collector, he enjoys freedom-fighting music with soulful melodies and big groovy bass lines.

ERICA BRENES

Kristin Land has taught English composition and literature at Chabot College in Hayward, CA since 2009. She earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA in American Literature with an emphasis in Chicano Studies and went on to earn a Master's degree in Education from UC Berkeley. She has been a Puente teacher ever since. She started her career at Tennyson high school in Hayward, before transitioning to be a trainer for the Puente Statewide Office and an instructor at Chabot. Kristin is committed to collaborating with students, families, and colleagues within the Puente Project, the Change It Now Learning Community, and the Bay Area Writing Project. She strives to design and implement transformative, trauma-informed learning experiences rooted in social justice.

KRISTIN LAND

Born and raised in Southern California, Erica Brenes is a first generation college graduate who always loved reading and writing. Transferring from her hometown community college to her dream school of UCLA was life changing and helped her pick her future craft. A mother to two, a wife, an urban gardener, and a brand new doctoral student, Erica stays committed to putting students first. She can be found reading graphic novels, writing poetry, and attending trainings on mental health, formally incarcerated scholars, LGBTQIA+ rights, and the needs of our undocumented students. She loves her job and her family.

SANDRA GENERA

Sandra Genera has been part of the Chabot Counseling and Special Programs since fall 2004. She knew she wanted to be a community college counselor as a student at Ohlone College. From there, Sandra transferred to UC Berkeley where she received her BA degree in Chicano Studies. She received her MS degree in counseling from Cal State Hayward and has been a Hayward resident since then. Sandra's passion is to share her culture and educational experiences with her community. She has a proven track record as a trusted facilitator and leader on campus, working on diverse teams that have included students, staff, and faculty.

MELVA ALVAREZ

Melva Alvarez was born and raised in the San Gabriel Valley to immigrant parents of Mexican decent. She is community college alumna, graduate of University of Southern California and attended Woodbury University Graduate School. She is the proud mother of 4 children and has mentored hundreds of community college students in her 15 year career as both an Outreach Specialist and MESA Specialist at Pasadena City College. Melva has a deep connection to community and has volunteered to be on the school board of New Village Charter school in Echo Park CA, and conferences such as STEM Savvy for Girls. She also stays involved in collectives centered on immigrant rights and equity in education.

MELISSA AGUILAR

Melissa Aguilar has dedicated over two decades of service to the California Community College system in mathematics education with a strong focus on equity, and culturally responsive and sustaining approaches to teaching and learning. She is excited to be working with The Puente Project to continue building bridges with educators across the state to transform mathematics education and advance STEM equity work that supports disproportionately impacted students be fluent in mathematics and reflected in STEM fields to serve their communities. She has a strong interest in ethnomathematics and mathematics curriculum that promotes this work through the lens of inclusive cultural perspectives.

