

Enlace Program

Evergreen Valley College

San Jose, California

“When I joined Enlace, I immediately felt like a part of a community, of something important. Enlace helped me understand what it means to be in college ... [it] changed how I saw myself and my future. After getting my degree at EVC, I applied to Santa Clara University and was thrilled to be accepted. I was the first in my family to attend a four-year university. And two years later I became the first in my family to graduate from a university.” - Teodolinda Mendoza, 2005, Enlace graduate

An Oasis of Support for Latino Students

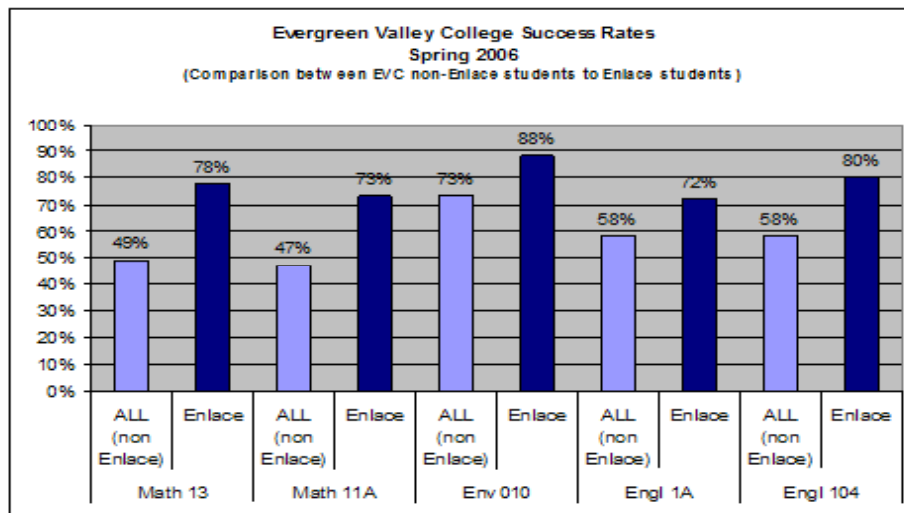
The Enlace Program was created in 1983 in recognition of the low levels of Latino educational attainment at Evergreen Valley College. Evergreen Valley College (EVC) is located in East San José and 28% of the student population is Latino, which is 10% lower than the Latino population of the local community. The mission of the Enlace Program is to enable Chicano/Latino students to successfully complete the academic core (English, Math, and Science) and to guide Chicano/Latino students effectively through transfer and occupational courses in a timely manner. EVC has had a 59% increase in degrees conferred to Latino students from 2001 to 2007.

“Enlace” is a Spanish word that means to link or intertwine and that is what the program does. The Enlace program has a wide-reaching educational network with feeder high schools, colleges, and community-based organizations to identify and address the needs of Latino students. For example, partners include the East Side Union High School District, San José Unified School District, Latino College Prep, San José State University, Santa Clara University, National Hispanic University, NASA Ames Hispanic Advisory Committee, Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley, Pan American Roundtable of Los Gatos, the Latino Lawyers Association, and La Raza Roundtable of Santa Clara County.

The Enlace program also includes an academic, counseling, and mentoring model that emphasizes a culturally-responsive approach to enhance Latino students’ navigation between their homes, community, and Evergreen Valley College. For example, they engage Latino professionals in the community from an array of backgrounds to mentor Latino students. Focused on both academic preparation, support and leadership development, the Enlace Program offers courses in developmental and college level English, Math, and Science - disciplines at the heart of students’ academic success in college. In addition, Enlace offers a guidance course for first semester students and one for transfer students. In total, Enlace offers 20-24 classes each year, with an enrollment of about 700 students.

Evidence of effectiveness

The comprehensive set of services provided by the Enlace Program have been highly effective in student success in English, math, and science courses. For 24 years, Enlace course success rates for Chicano/Latino students have been consistently higher than other Chicano/Latino students enrolled in similar courses. For example, from 2001 to Fall 2004, Enlace Latino students had a 76% course success rate compared to a success rate of 55% for Latino students enrolled in non-Enlace courses. Furthermore, the overall Enlace Program success rate for Spring 2006 was 82% while the success rate for all other students enrolled in similar courses was 55%.



Enlace has been effective in developing strategies to increase the number of Latinos who graduate and transfer. For example in one school year there has been a 30% increase in the number of Evergreen Valley College students who complete transfer agreements with San José State University and a 20% increase in the number of Latinos who actually enrolled.

For more information about this program, contact:

Richard Regua

Enlace Chair

Evergreen Valley College

Phone: 408-223-6750

Email: Richard.Regua@evc.edu