

Pipeline through College

“EMPOWERMENT IS EMPOWERING OTHERS, NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND OR FORGOTTEN. THIS IS PIPELINE.”

Michel, Encina Pipeline Student



THE PROGRAM

Pipeline through College, a joint project of the Cross-Cultural Leadership Center (CCLC), at California State University Chico, and The Alliance for Education Solutions (AES), is a youth development, mentoring, college access program supporting first generation, poor and minority students in their quest to pursue college and post-secondary training, and improve their life circumstances.

A two year program, Pipeline is coordinated and facilitated by CCLC staff and college paraprofessionals. Providing high school students with a college mentor and a school based advisor (usually a teacher), Pipeline begins working with students in their junior year, before they begin thinking about life after high school, and follows them through their senior year to graduation.

HOW IT WORKS

Matching the experiences and talents of college students with the needs of high school students who want to dream big, but don't know how to, this year (2015) Pipeline will pair 50 juniors and 50 seniors from San Juan High School and Encinas High School (both in San Juan Unified School District), with college students from Chico State who come from similar low-income or under-represented areas.

Mentors meet with students monthly throughout the school year, either at Chico State or the high

school, where they facilitate workshops such as: budgeting, self-reflection, how to choose the best college for you, how to make SMART goals, what leadership looks like. During each of these sessions students engage in interactive activities and thoughtful reflections that will support them in making the best decisions for their future beyond high school. The program culminates in a graduation at Chico State in May of the second year.¹

***Changing the odds for youth
who often fall into a school
to prison pipeline***

Site mentors and college mentors work as a team to support students by monitoring and discussing challenges the student might face such as: discipline or family issues, truancy, lack of motivation or additional supports they might need such as financial aid, family counseling etc.

The first year focuses on self-reflection and self-empowerment, helping students “dream big” about their future. This includes an intensive 3 day orientation training which focuses on building relationships and starting the conversation about life after high school, college and what success would look like for that student.

¹ Pipeline students admitted to Chico State meet with admission counselors, advisors and representatives from the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), which supports first generation students in college. For students admitted to others institutions, mentors work with the Pipeline Coordinator to ensure similar supports are arranged.



The second year continues the monthly workshops and weekly contacts, but focuses on admissions testing (SAT and ACT), applications, scholarships and formal contact with admissions counselors. Workshops focus on financial aid, testing, housing and academic transition.

By building trust, support and providing knowledge about college life, college mentors in partnership with school based advisors mentor students and help prepare them for the rigors and challenges of college life.

Increasing the number of under-represented applicants going into post-secondary training and higher education institutions and graduating in California.

Now in its third year, Pipeline (which was initially supported fully by AES) has been institutionalized both at Chico State and at San Juan and Encina High School.² Chico State, as part of its strategy to attract more local students of color, has officially created a Pipeline through College Coordinator position that will work closely with the University's admissions office; and this year both high schools have a paid Pipeline Coordinator/Advisor position, which will ensure more continuity in communication between college mentors and the schools.

THE RESULTS

In May of 2015, 90% of Pipeline's first group of seniors from San Juan High School graduated from the program with admission into college, post-secondary training or the military. Many of the students credit their affiliation with Pipeline and the help and support of their college mentors and school site advisors with their success.



² Pipeline began in September of 2013 at San Juan High School, with about 25 juniors. Students from Encina High School attended unofficially in 2014-2015 (a teacher brought students who were interested to sessions at Chico State and Jan Juan High School as the program was not sanctioned by the school administration). These Encina students were so committed to the program that they lobbied the school administration to formally adopt Pipeline so more students could benefit from it. In response to the student request, Encina officially adopted Pipeline for the 2015-2016 school year.