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As PIQE celebrates its 30th Anniversary, I want to again express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all the corporations, foundations and individuals who have sponsored parents and K-12 schools throughout California with our tested and proven “Parent Engagement in Education Program.” Special thanks to the Federal GEAR UP Program that has partnered with PIQE since 2003, and to CSU Chancellor Timothy White who has continued the California State University (CSU) partnership with PIQE that began in 2006. To commemorate our partnership, Chancellor White sponsored the “CSU & PIQE: A Decade of Collaboration” celebration on February 22, 2017 at the CSU Office of the Chancellor in Long Beach, California.

The 2016-17 fiscal year was both a challenging and fulfilling year for PIQE. In California, PIQE graduated 18,000+ parents and exceeded 663,000 parent graduates from its programs since 1987. PIQE has continued to expand its national footprint with its Best Practices programs, which have now reached 14 states across the nation.

On December 1, 2017, PIQE hosted its 30th Anniversary Celebration at Sherman Elementary School in the San Diego Unified School District where it began its work. In attendance were the two co-founders of PIQE, Rev. Dr. Vahac Mardirosian and Dr. Alberto Ochoa. Also in attendance were PIQE Senior Management Team, Executive and Associate Directors; Cecilia Estrada who was the Sherman Elementary School Principal in 1987; community leaders; and several parent graduates who gave powerful and moving testimonies on the great academic success of their children. San Diego City Council Member David Alvarez, whose mother graduated from PIQE, gave the Keynote Speech and presented PIQE with a City of San Diego Proclamation declaring December 1st to be “PIQE Day”.

Again, we wish to express our gratitude to all who have supported and sponsored the critically important work PIQE does with low-income parents to ensure that all students reach their highest academic potential and have the option of a college/university education. If you are interested in sponsoring a parent or K-12 school, please visit the PIQE website at www.piqe.org and click on “DONATE”. “Our nation’s present and future social and economic success depends on our commitment to EDUCATION!”

David Valladolid
President & CEO
WHO WE ARE
Committed to Excellence

VISION
PIQE is dedicated to achieving economic and social equality for all through education.

MISSION
To provide families with the knowledge and skills to partner with schools and communities to ensure their children achieve their full potential.

CORE VALUES

Empowerment for Change
Give families the tools and knowledge to effectively impact their children’s educational success.

Knowledge is Power
Informed families can improve their children’s future.

Taking Responsibility
Everyone doing their part to ensure student success.

Respect for the Family
Honoring and valuing parental participation and perspectives.

FOUNDERS

“I want to congratulate and thank the dynamic PIQE Board and Team for continuing the incredible work with parents to ensure their children get the option of college/university education. As one of the Co-Founders of PIQE, I find it so amazing to know that the work we started 30 years ago, continues and will continue for another 30+ years. A quality and post-secondary education are definitely the right of all students in our state, nation and in the world!”

Rev./Dr. Vahac Mardirosian
PIQE Co-Founder

“The Board of Directors is grateful for your support of PIQE’s work that centers on parent engagement. PIQE at each school site follows such democratic values as equal encouragement, inclusion, and the right to access to opportunity. Of importance is dialogue that presupposes equality among participants. Each must trust the others. There must be mutual respect, caring, and commitment to one another. Each one must question what s/he knows and realize that through dialogue, existing thoughts will change and new knowledge, skills, and networks of support will be created.”

Dr. Alberto M. Ochoa
PIQE Co-Founder & Board Chair

2017 | ANNUAL REPORT | 3
PIQE’s ACCOMPLISHMENTS & PROGRAMS
Helping Shape the Future

During FY 2017, PIQE:

- **served 405 schools** in California;
- **graduated 18,465 parents** from our programs;
- **had a success rate of 84%** (parents who completed our programs).

Since 1987, PIQE has graduated more than **663,000** parents; and enhanced the education of over **1.9** million students.

PIQE’S PROGRAMS

1. K-12 Parent Engagement in Education “Signature” Program
2. Teacher-Parent Engagement Workshop
3. Early Child Development
4. Early K-3 Literacy
5. Parent Leadership Development *
6. Family Financial Literacy Education *
7. Four-Month Follow-up “Parent Coaches”*
8. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) *

* Supplemental Programs
** Based on an average of three students per parent graduate
PIQE began in October of 1987 when Rev. Vahac Mardirosian and Dr. Alberto Ochoa, two community leaders concerned over the poor learning conditions of Latino students in San Diego, asked Superintendent Tom Payzant to support them in reaching out to parents at Sherman Elementary School. At the time, Sherman was ranked academically near the bottom of 109 elementary schools within the San Diego Unified School District.

To identify conditions contributing to underachievement, Rev. Mardirosian and Dr. Ochoa asked involved parents whose children attended Sherman Elementary to examine the low academic achievement of their children. During the meeting, they posed two questions: first, why are students in this school performing so poorly academically and, second, what is going on at home, at school or in the community that might be contributing to this situation. What was originally expected to be a two-hour dialogue with a dozen parents became a three-month dialogue attracting more than ninety families.

During the interactive sessions, over 160+ issues were identified that directly or indirectly impacted student learning. These issues ranged from student-parent-teacher-school communication to safety and drugs in the community. When asked what should be done with this information, the parents responded, “Hold a series of interactive trainings at our school and other schools!” Dr. Ochoa, a professor at San Diego State University, worked with parents to cluster the 160+ issues into themes and was commissioned by the parents to develop a series of workshops designed for K-8 parents -- now referred to as PIQE’s Nine-Week Parent Engagement in Education Program. Word spread quickly and requests for the workshops started pouring in. Rev. Mardirosian with the support of Dr. Ochoa and others took the helm of the fledgling initiative and launched what today is known as the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). Within the original values and goals of PIQE has been the drive for communities to create schools that promote democratic values, inclusion, and a college going culture. Since 1987 PIQE has graduated over 663,000 parents and has taught its classes in 16 diverse languages throughout California. PIQE has continued to expand its national footprint with its Best Practices programs, which have now reached 14 states across the nation.
On December 1, 2017, PIQE hosted its 30th Anniversary Celebration at Sherman Elementary School in San Diego Unified School District where it began its work. The event was sponsored by Mr. Lawrence & Suzanne Hess, Sycuan Band of Kumeyaay Nation, SDG&E, AT&T, CRLA, Public Advocates, PIQE Board members and staff.

Dr. Alberto Ochoa, PIQE Co-Founder & Chair; San Diego Councilmember David Alvarez; Rev./Dr. Vahac Mardirosian, PIQE Founder

Elena Gonzalez, Alma Gasca, Cecilia Estrada, Alfonso Gonzalez, David Valladolid, Raquel Corona, and Ray Estrada

Ms. Cecilia Estrada, Principal at Sherman Elementary in 1987

Dr. Alberto Ochoa; Karen Zamarripa, PIQE Board Member; Rev./Dr. Vahac Mardirosian
“Without question, parent engagement translates to student success. Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades, graduate and attend college. For more than a decade, the CSU-PIQE partnership has ensured that families have the tools they need to navigate the education system and create a college-going culture in the home. As a result, entire generations of Californians are now better equipped to achieve and succeed in school, college and life.”

Dr. Timothy P. White, Chancellor
The California State University

In 2016-17, CSU sponsored a total of $637,500* to serve 107 schools, graduating 5,777 parents from PIQE’s Parent Engagement in Education Program; enhancing the education of approximately 173,331 students (based on an average of three per parent graduate).

*The sponsorship includes pledges from the CSU Office of the Chancellor and individual CSU campuses.
“Obtaining my bachelor’s degree is not only my achievement it’s my family’s success as well because thanks to their love and support I was able to overcome the educational system obstacles I encountered along the way. My parents’ involvement was vital to my academic success and I’m beyond thankful to PIQE for providing the essential tools and resources for my immigrant parents to understand the education system. My mom and dad reinforced me to believe in myself and that being bilingual is not an obstacle but rather a benefit. As my parents say “Sí se puede cuando uno quiere porque el que persevera alcanza”. My parents attribute our success to the constant collaboration between the school, myself, and my parents. Always remember to be resilient and strive to achieve your dreams and goals.”

On May 2017, Ericka Puga graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences Mathematics and Statistics, with emphasis in Actuarial Science.

“I am beyond thankful to my parents for being the fuel for my accomplishment. Without the hard work and involvement of my parents, I would have never reached academic success. Since the day they graduated from PIQE, they made sure that I did not miss any important deadlines such as my SATs, college applications, scholarship applications, and FAFSA. For me, parent engagement is the best motivator for a young individual to strive for higher education and believe in themselves. I want to thank PIQE for giving many parents an opportunity to gain the knowledge necessary to guide their children to college. Today, my parents continue their interest in my sister’s academic journey, and support my decision of continuing my education by applying to graduate school.”

On May 2017 Gladis Villalpando graduated from California State University, Fresno with a B.S. in Recreation Administration with an emphasis in Community and Youth Services. In January 2018 she will begin the M.S. in Counseling - School Counseling Option at CSU Fresno.

“My mother graduated from PIQE in the early 2000s. Through these classes, she learned about the education system and gained the necessary tools to support my older sibling and me in school. She was very involved in my education and helped me succeed academically. Her involvement in my education made me very passionate about being involved in the educational system and then becoming a teacher. I feel that I can take what my mother learned through PIQE and help students as well as parents to be involved in education. Thanks to PIQE, my mother gained the tools to involve her in my education and this contributed not only to my academic success, but also to my passion in education.”

On May 2017, Luisa Calvo graduated from California State University, Stanislaus with a B.A. in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Bilingual Cross-Cultural Studies. She is currently attending CSU Stanislaus to obtain a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.
“I’m happily married with five children, and I have taken PIQE’s program twice. The first time was when my eldest children were in elementary school. My eldest children are now in community college. Thanks to PIQE, we are more focused and prepared to help our children go directly into a university. Last year was very difficult for us as a family. Our children were attending different schools from pre-k, elementary, middle school, high school, and college. We made ten trips to the different schools in a single day. But, when you have a set goal in mind, the obstacles and sacrifices don’t matter. As a family, we have always concentrated on our children’s education and PIQE is an excellent resource that has helped us. To my children: as your parents, we promise to help and support you reach your goals at your maximum potential, and soon, be university graduates. I know you will be! Thank you so much, PIQE!”

Cristina Avalos Alfaro, Parent Graduate, Carter High School, Rialto Unified School District

“In this class, we learned that through our support, excitement, and experiences, we could help create a better environment for our children to learn. My personal experience wasn’t quite the traditional one: I dropped out my sophomore year, went to a continuation school, and then stopped altogether. Then I attended a fast pace high school and graduated. After many years, I received my Associate Degree at a community college. In this program, we learned from PIQE but also from the other parents. I want to be an advocate for my kids and the voice of encouragement. Thank you, PIQE. Thank you to our school for hosting these sessions and thank you, fellow parent graduates, for joining me.”

Julie Faurote, Parent Graduate, Zamorano Elementary School, San Diego Unified School District

“This class has been an eye-opener. I am the first in my family to graduate from a school. After receiving my credentials as a diesel tech and automotive tech, as well as SMOG training and certified Ford Motor Company training, I accrued a $50 thousand school bill. With PIQE, I can help all of my six girls make better decisions towards their college future, and avoid the same mistakes I made. We also had [PIQE’s] STEM program. Before, I had no clue what it stood for. As a parent concerned about my kids’ education, I realized times have changed. Wood shop, metal work, home economics were classes in my times. But now, you can come up with a robotic program, control it, and tell the robot to do as much as five people can. That’s where times have changed. And I would like to have my girls be that kind of change. I would like to thank everyone for making this parent workshop happen.”

Tam Nguyen, Parent Graduate, Wilmington Middle School, Los Angeles Unified School District
STUDENTS’ TESTIMONIES
#StudentSuccess

“This past month, my parents and I graduated from Harvard. My name may be the only one on the diploma, but that diploma is a product of the foundation my parents began building for me since the day we set foot in this country. My mom set down a brick by tutoring me every night making sure I didn’t fall behind in school. She planted another brick every time she went to a PIQE session, ran for PTA president, and joined every parent club my school offered. My dad laid down a brick when he reassured me that I had the potential to take and excel in advanced classes. After every project, he helped brainstorm with me, my foundation would grow stronger and taller. The road to an Ivy League diploma was paved by my parents. These are the giants whose shoulders I’ve stood on. This diploma belongs to them.”

On May 2017 Giovanna Robledo graduated from Harvard University with a B.A.S. in Social Sciences and a Minor in Global Health & Health Policy. She is currently attending Yale Law School.

“Thanks to the support of my parents and the motivation of my sisters, I was able to achieve academic success and go to the University of San Diego with scholarships. In the PIQE’s parent workshops, both of my parents learned to guide me academically and use the resources available to help me fulfill my goals and make them proud. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for your love and support to your three daughters! And thank you PIQE for helping my parents create a college going culture in our home!”

On June 2017 Jacqueline Puga graduated from Chula Vista Senior High School. She is currently attending the University of San Diego. She plans to major in Mechanical Engineering.

“My mom and dad began attending PIQE’s program when I was in 7th grade. PIQE taught them what they know and use, to be actively engaged in my education. PIQE played a very important part in my life as well. While my parents were in the classes, I volunteered in the childcare that PIQE provided. I was in charge of coming up with activities for the children. Through this experience, I was able to find my passion of becoming a teacher. As I transitioned from middle school to high school I began valuing what PIQE has to offer. Like Nelson Mandela once said, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’ PIQE provides this ‘powerful weapon’ for parents and their families. I am so thankful that PIQE was part of my life because without them all of my success would not be possible. With PIQE “Now Anything is Possible.”

On June 2017, Nancy Reyes graduated from Orange Cove High School. She is currently attending California State University, Fresno. She plans to major in Liberal Studies.
PIQE’s Best Practices programs are designed for school districts that wish to implement PIQE’s parent engagement model. PIQE provides curriculum materials, training, and ongoing support. Additional programs and technical services are also available. Contact us for more information.

Welcome South Carolina to our National Parent Empowerment Movement!

This past year, we have worked with Rock Hill School District and Fort Mills School District by providing several trainings. Their parent program is called Family Outreach for Cultivating Understanding of Schools (Focus). The launch of the program will be in January 2018!
We have been expanding our Best Practices Programs since 2002. Hear what our Partners have to say:

“After trying many different ideas to get parents involved in our district, and without much success, PIQE’s thirty years of experience are like gold. Through their training and on-going support, you just follow their map, “plug and play,” and it truly works as promised - parents show up and get involved in their child’s academic success. We graduated 87 parents in our first school and are in the beginning of our second and third schools this year. Graduating parents are SO thankful that we brought them this program. They feel empowered, more knowledgeable, and take action on behalf of their students. In fact, graduating parents want to know, “what course is next?!” I felt proud when I saw many PASS graduates at the high school parent/teacher conferences advocating for their students as they transitioned to high school. PASS and PIQE really work!”

Whitney Allen,
Parent Advocates for Student Success (Pass) Coordinator

“At first I thought, what can PASS possibly do to help my student? Really, 90 minutes once a week for 9 weeks? Can I, or do I really want to, commit to this?

Well, here we are nine weeks later and I’ve come to realize how important this commitment is for me and even more so for my daughter, MacKenzie. Now I feel empowered to help MacKenzie and to commit to helping her stay on the path towards college. I was given the tools I needed to help her through. I’ve learned about the school system structure, what as a parent I need to know and pay attention to, what to talk to teachers and school counselors about, and what classes MacKenzie needs to be taking. I understand the commitment is more than nine weeks of my time - it’s a commitment to help my daughter succeed down a path of college and for a better life.

I’ve learned that committing to PASS is really showing MacKenzie I’m as invested in her and her school as she is. I’ve learned to give her the courage to smile and to communicate with me more about what’s going on in school. It has helped my confidence by committing to this program, therefore helping my daughter and me to commit to a better education to make her dreams a reality.”

Denise Rice, PASS graduate, Scott Carpenter Middle, Westminster Public Schools

* Parent Advocates for Student Success (PASS) is a program based on PIQE’s model.

For more information on our Best Practices Model contact Patricia Mayer at (619) 884-7926.
FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS
A Heartfelt Thank You

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Animo Pat Brown Charter High School
Antelope Valley Union HS District
Aspire Centennial College Preparatory

FY 2016-17 FUNDING
• Best Practices: 5% - $244,200
• Contributions: 20% - $1,038,203
• CSU: 12% - $637,500
• Federal & Local Government: 13% - $705,349
• Individuals & Misc.: 0% - $15,591
• Program Service Fees: 50% - $2,636,333
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Palmdale School District
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Paramount Unified School District
Paso Robles Joint Unified School District
Peterson Middle School
Pierce Joint Unified School District
Pleasant Valley School District
Porterville Unified School District
Public Safety Academy
Rialto Unified School District
Riverside Unified School District
Romoland Unified School District
Rowland Unified School District
San Bernardino City Unified
San Bruno Park School District
San Diego Unified School District
San Jose Intermediate
San Mateo Park Elementary School
San Mateo High School
San Ysidro School District
Sanger Unified School District
Santa Ana Unified School District
Santa Clara Unified School District
Santa Maria Joint Union High School District
Santa Paula Unified School District
Santa Rita Union School District
Saugus Union School District
Selma Unified School District
Solana Beach School District
Stone Corral Elementary School District
Sunnyvale Middle School
Sweetwater Union High School District
Terra Linda High School
The Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County
The Palmdale Aerospace Academy
THINK Together
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Tule City Unified School District
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Tulare Unified School District
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Dr. Sonia Rodriguez
Chief Operating Officer

Patricia Mayer
VP of Program Development

Norma Garcia
VP of Program Operations

Alma El Issa
VP of Public Relations & Marketing

Minerva Briseño-Diaz
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