Creating A College-Going Culture

Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE)

Since 1987

2018 Annual Report
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On behalf of PIQE’s Board of Directors, we wish to express our gratitude to all of our supporters for enabling the organization to meet its 2017-18 goals. Since 1987, PIQE has graduated over 679,000 parents from its 9-week Parent Engagement in Education Program that corresponds with the four levels of schooling (elementary, middle, high school and higher education). In addition, PIQE has continued to expand its national footprint through its Best Practices programs that reached 14 states across the nation.

More than ever, we remain committed to our mission: “To provide families with the knowledge and skills to partner with schools and communities to ensure that their children achieve their full potential”, pursue college and a career. Our most recent evaluations point to PIQE’s contributions to creating a college going culture in low-income school communities. A California State University longitudinal study, completed in July 2018, confirms such impact.

Mr. David Valladolid, our Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for over 21 years retired in June 2018. We are grateful for his leadership, service and commitment to PIQE over the years. To lead this next chapter, we hired our new President & CEO, Ms. Gloria Corral-Terrazas in Fall 2018. She has a track record of over 20 years in educational reform efforts and extensive expertise leading systems integration, organizational growth, financial stewardship skills and change management.

The PIQE Board also acknowledges the tireless commitment, integrity and passion of the staff to improve the lives of families and youth. It is the talent and commitment of the staff that has sustained PIQE and has contributed to statewide high school retention, graduation and the pursuit of a college degree and career.

Lastly, we thank you for your commitment to our mission and look forward to our partnership to reach more families for years to come.

Respectfully,

Dr. Alberto M. Ochoa
Chair & Co-Founder
IN MEMORIAM
Rev./Dr. Vahac Mardirosian’s life and work

Rev./Dr. Vahac Mardirosian, Co-founder and President Emeritus of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) passed away at his home in San Diego on August 17, 2018 at the age of 93. Reverend Mardirosian was an advocate of educational equity and reform in the Los Angeles and San Diego school districts and played a crucial role in the Latino civil rights movement.

Of Armenian descent, Mardirosian was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1925 but his family relocated to Mexico in order to escape the Turk persecution. From the age of two, Mardirosian grew up in Mexico City and later in Tijuana. He was ordained as a Baptist minister in California in 1946 and went on to serve the Mexican-American communities of Topeka and Chicago before returning to California in the 1950s.

In 1952 Reverend Vahac Mardirosian became the Baptist director of Hispanic ministries of the American Baptist Churches of the Pacific Southwest. In this role he became a leading advocate of educational reform in Southern California, especially in the Mexican-American communities. In 1968 he was a leader of the historic protests at Garfield High School in East Los Angeles where students were demanding a revamping of the education system they claimed was not responsive to the needs of the predominantly Mexican-American student body. He acted as a mediator between administrators and protestors, becoming a representative of parents and students in his role as chairman of the Educational Issues Coordinating Committee (EICC) created in response to the student protests.

He was founder and executive director of the Hispanic Urban Center in Los Angeles focused on in-service education for teachers seeking to enhance their perceptions of Mexican-American culture and improve teacher-student relations. In 1987 Mardirosian started the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) along with Dr. Alberto Ochoa in an effort to address underperforming schools in San Diego Unified School District in response to parents concerned for their children's education. A nine-week parent engagement model was created and designed in collaboration with parents, students and teachers. An emphasis of the curriculum is the role of parents as advocates for their children. Currently, PIQE services more than 300 schools per year in California and fourteen states in the nation through its Best Practices Model.
PIQE PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA
Helping Shape the Future of our Nation

During FY 2018 PIQE:

- served 20,469 parents in 355 K-12 schools.
- graduated 16,121 parents, enhancing the education of approximately 48,000** students.

Since 1987, PIQE has graduated more than 679,000 parents and enhanced the education of over 1.9** million students

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. Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) *

* Supplemental Programs
**Based on an average of three students per parent graduate
STUDENT SUCCESS: A PROVEN AND TESTED PROGRAM

Longitudinal Study of the Parent Engagement in Education Program

The PIQE 2018 Longitudinal Study was conducted in the fall and winter of 2017-18 and was released on July 30, 2018. The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of PIQE on students whose parents participated in the Parent Engagement in Education Program.

The study, conducted by Dr. Marissa Vasquez, Assistant Professor at San Diego State University, indicates the following: students whose parents participated in the organization’s Parent Engagement in Education Program graduated from high school at a rate of 96% compared with the 80% graduation rate reported by the California Department of Education for the class of 2017, despite the fact that 71% of the families reported earning $20,000 a year or less and 51% had no more than an elementary school education.

These same students were also attending a college or university at a rate of 70%, higher than the 40% rate reported by the California Postsecondary Education Commission in 2010, the latest year for which data is available.

The results of this study affirms that educating, empowering and inspiring parents in communities to advocate for their children makes a difference in their academic success.

71% of the Parents Report Earnings of $20,000 or Less:

Parental Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parental Income</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$20K</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40K</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$60K</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100K</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Answer</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parental income brackets were as follows: $20,000 or less, $40,000, $60,000 and $100,000. Most respondents indicated earning $20,000 or less (n=372; 71%).
Lessons Learned about the Impact of PIQE

Over 5,300 calls were placed to parent participants, 3,959 to Spanish-speaking parents and 1,425 to English-speaking parents. Extensive interviews were conducted with 526 parents, representing all regions.

ALL STUDENTS:
- 96% graduated from high school
- 70% entered college
- 46% attended a community college
- 48% attended a four-year university
- 3% attended a private college
- 0.03% attended the Naval Academy

ELL STUDENTS: 77% of the students were identified as ELL
- 96% graduated from high school
- 70% entered college
- 49% attended a community college
- 43% attended a four-year university
- 4% attended a private college
- 0.03% attended the Naval Academy
During 2006 - 2018, the support from the California State University (CSU) system enabled PIQE to expand its Parent Engagement in Education Program in 115 K-12 schools a year at the 23 CSU campus regions.

PIQE is very appreciative of the California State University’s partnership over the last 12 years which supported hundreds of thousands of students and families in pursuing an education to access a college degree and career. We are proud that by working together over 90,000 parents were trained to influence and enhance the education of more than 270,000 students in California.

In 2017-18, CSU provided $576,000 to serve 104 schools, graduating 4,522 parents and enhancing the education of approximately 13,500 students.

*The sponsorship includes pledges from the CSU Office of the Chancellor and individual CSU campuses.*
“I have one child who is in 1st grade. This is my second time I have taken a PIQE class. First, I want to thank the school’s personnel who made this class happen. Especially Mrs. Knight the school principal, my PIQE instructor Ms. Barbara Ly and others. These series of classes have taught me important ways to help my 1st grader and gave us a lot of good information on our child’s developmental process. We gained knowledge on how to educate our kids and be a more effective parent. Mrs. Barbara Ly also shared a lot of great community resources and activities for us to use. I am so glad that I joined this PIQE program and to be part of the Emerson school community.”

- Sally Chen, Parent Graduate, Emerson Elementary

“As a result of PIQE, I had a paradigm shift that I’m in a partnership with the school’s teachers and administration; after all, we have the common goal to develop strong, independent, and successful children. Because of this program I was also able to help my son in different subjects as I became more involved in his homework. We had a great time bonding and learning together. This is just the beginning of the impact of the program and I am excited to continue applying what I’ve learned.”

- Alba Hakimrabet, Parent Graduate, Washington Elementary

“Thanks to the PIQE program I realized that my economic standing will not be an obstacle. I learned that communication resolves most problems and that the communication we have with our children helps motivate and prevent many things. Adriana and Fatima your mother and I got involved in PIQE so we can help you continue your education, we are very proud of what you both have accomplished. Adriana do you remember that when you were in preschool, you made me a shirt that had your tiny feet marked on it and it read “I am following in your footsteps, guide me through the correct path”? It’s because of that token that I am here, to continue to guide you like I promised. I just want to thank you for everything and everyone that made this program possible.”

- Rafael Arellano, Parent Graduate, Mendota Jr. High
Ms. Alicia Miguel first caught the attention of the PIQE Associate Director the first day the workshops were offered at Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise. She noticed that Ms. Miguel would take pictures of every slide of the PowerPoint presentation. The Associate Director soon discovered that Ms. Miguel could not read and that she could barely speak Spanish. Originally from Guatemala, Ms. Miguel spoke a Guatemalan dialect that made it difficult for her to understand both Spanish and English. She took photos of the slides for her daughter, Selena Lorenzo, to translate for her later at home. She shared that they had originally lived in Oakland California, before moving to Los Angeles. The move had caused them to enroll their daughter late into the school year and because of this, her daughter was struggling with her studies and was at least a year behind. Selena was embarrassed of her academic struggles and it caused her to have low self-esteem. Ms. Miguel attended the PIQE workshops in hopes of finding a resource to help her daughter overcome these struggles and raise her academic level.

Ms. Miguel’s struggles speaking Spanish and English kept her from wanting to attend any school events or meetings, but seeing her daughter’s lack of interest in school made her more committed to getting help and resulted in her participating in the PIQE program. On a daily basis, Ms. Miguel and her husband work long hours to raise their three children. But understanding the urgency to improve Selena’s grades, Ms. Miguel took time off to participate in the PIQE workshops. Because of the nine sessions, she has reached out to the school principal and has received much support. The principal stated that with all of Ms. Miguel’s support and attention, Selena would be able to raise her grades. Selena will be taking additional courses over the summer and has already shown a change in her behavior wanting to improve her grades. Selena knows she wants to go to college but for now her main goal is improving her grades.

PIQE graduation was an emotional event for Ms. Miguel and her family. She proudly introduced her family to the Associate Director and pointed to her daughter Selena. “Look, this is my daughter; she is the reason why I am here today.” As her family members hugged and congratulated her on her accomplishment, she shared that she felt like she had finally accomplished something meaningful in her life for the sake of her children. Ms. Miguel still has the PIQE PowerPoint photos on her phone and has shared them with other members of her family. She hopes that other parents will find the courage and resources she received through the PIQE workshops.
...footprint in 14 states

California Seminars

First-Year Teachers at San Diego State University
Professional Development Seminar for Educators at San Diego State University on the topic of Dual Capacity Framework for Family Engagement

Parent Seminar at Livermore, CA
These families are attending two Saturday seminars to learn critical information about ways to support their children’s academic progress.
PIQE in South Carolina

Our connection with PIQE began as we were putting together a proposal for a U. S. Department of Education grant through the National Professional Development Program. The focus of the grant is professional development for teachers working with English Learners, but we knew that family involvement with schools completes the picture in terms of furthering student success. This is particularly difficult to achieve when working with families with a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. A search for evidence-based practices and programs quickly led us to PIQE, and the program was a natural fit for our project. Our visits to PIQE offices and schools in Southern California gave us valuable insight into how the institutes work and the effects they have on parent participants and overall school culture. After revising the curriculum with information relevant to our state’s educational context, adopting the name FOCUS (Family Outreach for Cultivating Understanding of Schools), and having PIQE staff on site to train facilitators in two partner school districts, we held our first institutes in Winter/Spring 2018. Word spreads quickly, and we already have parents asking when the next institute will be held—and when we will offer it in English! In 2018-2019, we will expand to additional school sites and bring on another partner district. Our work with PIQE has yielded a very powerful collaboration and is well on the way to transforming the culture of our local schools.

54 parent graduates

All Spanish speakers reported increases in understanding of state standards, standardized testing and grade point average. They also developed a more hands-on approach to education with their children by increasing the frequency of attending school events and talking with school counselors about the goal of college for their children.

PIQE’s Best Practices Model is designed for school districts that wish to implement the effective parent engagement program, even though they are not located near a PIQE Regional Office. For more information contact Ms. Patricia Mayer at (619) 884-7926.
A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

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BEST PRACTICES
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Central City Value High School
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Claremont Unified School District
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Family College Success Center
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Fremont Unified School District
Fresno Unified School District
Fullerton Joint Union High School District
Garvey School District
Garvey Unified School District
George Mayne Elementary

FY 2017-18 FUNDING
- Best Practices: 6% - $346,300
- Contributions: 26% - $1,429,579
- CSU: 11% - $576,000
- Federal & Local Government: 3% - $180,532
- Individuals & Organizations: 1% - $39,584
Program Service Fees: 52% - $2,825,080
Glendora Unified School District
Gonzales High School
Graham Middle School
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Greenfield Union School District
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Hemet Unified School District
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Salinas High School
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San Bernardino City Unified
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San Lorenzo Unified School District
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San Rafael City School District
San Rafael High School District
Sanger Unified School District
Santa Ana Unified School District
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