

**Formative Assessment Project  
Focus Group Questions**

**Transcript: Chaffey Community College October 2, 2013**

<b>Key</b> (used by SK)
I: Interviewer R: Researcher <i>(anything italicized is transcription of perceived action, e.g. laughter)</i>

**Introduction:**

**R:** Thank you for your participation in our study on First Generation College Students. What we will discuss will be used for the study but the recording will be destroyed. If at any time you need to leave or do not feel comfortable answering the given question please let me know, as you are not obligated to continue with the interview.

**R:** May I begin with interviewing?

**I:** Yes

**R:** Could you please state your first and last name, how old you are and umm... if this is your first year in college?

**I:** My name is Graciella Munoz. I am 22 years old and uh this is not my first year. I transferred here.

**R:** Would this be your second or third year?

**I:** This would be my third but my first year here at Chaffey.

**R:** Great, thank you. Could you describe your first year in college?

**I:** um...(pause).. my first year at Citrus, actually, was okay. I was expecting it to be more...like. Cuz teachers in high school would tell us how it would be and it wasn't anything like that.um,

everyone is pretty much independent. Then after that I went to Mexico and studied for a year. Then I came to Chaffey and started the Puente program and that's really fun... (pause) it's a really fun program.

**R:** Another question is...Do you still live with your parents?

**I:** Yes

**R:** How do you feel connected to Chaffey College so far?

**I:** hm...(pause)... I feel connected, one, because my brother just graduated from here, Chaffey College, with an associates in anthropology and Chicano studies and I learned from him about the Puente Program. I learned from him that it existed.

**R:** What are some positive experiences in the past few months that have helped you in being apart of the Puente Program?

**I:** Having guidance. I would try to see a counselor at Citrus but it was so hard. And here I have the Puente counselor that I get to see every Wednesday.... Hmm... also being able to go to campuses. This past Saturday we went to UC Laverne. So we..we went to that. It was also a way of experiencing more things which are yet to come. When we were there we had a..um.. conference. So... I want to be a medical student. I want to be a doctor so we were there for the medical area of the conference....(pause) It was a great way of socializing and walking around the campus.

**R:** Thank you. Do you have a mentor on or off campus? If so, what does that relationship look like?

**I:** Not yet because the Puente program has not given us one till November.

**R:** SO you will be assigned one?

**I:** Yes

**R:** Okay

**I:** But I was told maybe I would be mentored by Doctor Sara...(pause)..I think that is her name?

**R:** And is she in the medical field?

**I:** Yes, she was a biology major.

**R:** What are the expectations that your family places on you as a whole? So whether you when you are at home or wherever what are their expectations?

**I:** Um... my family's expectation for me is to study..like my parents are like we would rather you be at school than have a job. They would rather me have study time than to work.

**R:** How does the role in your family affect your academic success

**I:** Um...(pause)What do you mean by that?

**R:** SO...The way your family has expectations for you... Does that affect you academically?

**I:** No because.. since they want me to be here I have everyone's... uhh... umm what's that word? SUPPORT! I have everyone's support (laughter)

**R:** (laughter) Its okay.

**I:** My brother helps me. My cousins help me. My cousin just graduated from UC Berkley with a philosophy major..or she was as philosophy major. She graduated with that. She helps me sometimes write my papers. So it doesn't really affect me because they are all there for me with support.

**R:** Are the responsibilities different from guys then girls in your house?

**I:** HMM... Academically no but in other situations like who comes home early. That is different because of the Latino culture. Yea know? Usually I have to come home around 10 and the guys do whatever...and work too! So they expect home to work and go to school but with me I have the option of not going to work and going to school full time or both...

**R:** So, o you have a curfew?

**I:** Not anymore!! Cuz I'm 22 so ... I mean (pause) I do not disrespect them by coming home at 2 or 3 on the morning. The latest I get home is around 1 and I have to say hey, I am going to come home a little late. But no like sleeping over peoples house.

**R:** So you said "Latino culture." Can you expand on that with the different expectations from guy and girls?

**I:** Yes like they expect the guy to work. The house chores aren't really the guys thing. So its more of a. uh... you go to work you, do your thing at school and the girl.. you have to clean .. buy these things you need around the house and for school.

**R:** Do you have a significant other?

**I:** No I do not.

**R:** Describe your transition into college. So when you were in high school and came to Citrus. Was is easy or difficult?

**I:** Um, it was a weird culture shock.

**R:** How so?

**I:** Because in high school everyone's just is in their groups and stuff. In college you have to meet new people... so I um.. I had I had a boyfriend who went to APU which was next door. And I met a lot of people from APU. I was friends with a lot of English and pharmaceutical majors and biology and stuff like that. That was kind of a good thing because it was like... um.. it wasn't that hard for me to get comfortable with college because I.. I would get all this help from these people. But then after that, like a year or two after...it wasn't the same. I mean I did meet friends and people at Citrus when I was with him. But when we weren't... I stopped talking to these people at APU. Now there was different people at Chaffey... I mean from Citrus...so umm

(pause) It was.. it was okay there. But I like it here because these people here I am going to see them for a long period of time until I transfer out. The Puente project or program is, it helps you not only be friends with people in class now but also people who use to be in the Puente program. So even people who transferred to Berkley 2 years ago they're going to come back and mentor us.

**R:** Thank you.

**R:** What issues have you encountered academically so?

**I:** UM..I guess being a little nervous to say things in class or express myself, so.. (pause) like personally when I got here I was really shy with my English professor because she was so smart and I did not feel I was a he level but she made us know it was not like that. She told us we were equal and were going to treat each other the same.

**R:** What issues within our family, if any, have arisen, since you have chose to come to college?

**I:** Hmm..none specifically(pause) I wouldn't say there were any issues... just maybe that there is a lot of time.. study time that is time consuming with group projects and class and going to these class field trips.. like at the end of the year we are going to Berkley and UC Santa Cruz and all these other universities and this might be a problem with family cuz they want me to go o a family thing and I have a school thing and cant show up. So being away from family could be a problem.



**Formative Assessment Project  
Focus Group Questions**

**Transcript: Chaffey Community College October 4, 2013**

<b>Key</b> (used by SK)
I: Interviewer R: Researcher <i>(anything italicized is transcription of perceived action, e.g. laughter)</i>

**Introduction:**

**R:** Thank you for your participation in our study on First Generation College Students. What we will discuss will be used for the study but the recording will be destroyed. If at any time you need to leave or do not feel comfortable answering the given question please let me know, as you are not obligated to continue with the interview.

**R:** May I begin with interviewing?

**I:** Yes

**R:** Could you please state your first and last name, how old you are and if this is your first year in college?

**I:** My name is Cathybeth Rodriguez Vega. I am 19 years old. This is not my first year. I transferred from Puerto Rico.

**R:** Great, thank you. Could you describe your first year in college?

**I:** My first year was in Puerto Rico... (pause)... (laughter) I mean it was hard but I got 21 units. Now I am here at Chaffey and found out about the Puente Program. It's really good. I guide you... and.. yea!

**R:** That's good to hear, now another question. Do you still live with your parents?

**I:** Yes, I live with my mom.

**R:** How do you feel connected to Chaffey College so far?

**I:** Actually pretty good cuz my sister studied here and she said Chaffey was a good college. So I came here and told about Puente program. She is not in the program because she is studying to be a nurse. She live all her life here in California but since I go here she told me it was a Latino program so you can talk Spanish and express yourself. So I find friends so I can talk Spanish and English and they understand and Monica is always available.

**R:** What are some positive experiences in the past few months that have helped you in being apart of the Puente Program?

**I:** Well I learned how to be more organized and time management, be more available for like important things. When we go o Laverne I was like WOW we can go to university and transfer and Puente program can help to get there.

**R:** Thank you. Do you have a mentor on or off campus? If so, what does that relationship look like?

**I:** I don't have a mentor yet but I am going to get one.. and I hope... I hope they have the same major because mine is marine biology

**R:** SO you hope your mentor has the same major of marine biology?

**I:** Yes.

**R:** What are the expectations that your family places on you as a whole? So whether you when you are at home or wherever what are their expectations?

**I:** I mean I am from Latino family. I come from Puerto Rico and they always say study comes first. And when you work it's like no you need to focus on your studies... so.. almost no Latino family I knew made the girl work and study. But my mom study and have her master of psychology. So .. she understand like you gotta work and be independent.

**R:** So your mom actually has a degree?

**I:** Yea, my mother has a degree and I actually think it help me very much. I come from Puente program and most parents are Mexican and do not have opportunity to study. So, I feel lucky I have my mom and she understand how like things work.

**R:** How does the role in your family affect your academic success?

**I:** So right now I live with m mother here. She understand if I have to write paper or have project she tell me you gotta know how the professor work. She support me 100%. So she make it very easy like tell me to get a tutor. She make it very easy.

**R:** Are the responsibilities different from guys then girls in your house?

**I:** Yea the guys have to clean car and do the...um... what is it called? The patio. They have to clean that and girls have to do the dishes and use the brush. So many things but my mother...she try to make balance between my brother and me so we can do the same but at the same time the Latino culture say men go to work and woman stay in house. My mother take different perspective since she raise us alone. So I think woman has strong power.

**R:** Do you feel fortunate?

**I:** Yes! I think I wouldn't change.... I mean I wasn't raised with my father but I wouldn't change that. My grandmother raised her sons and daughters alone and my mom raised me and my brother alone. I think that makes women strong so they can see women can do it and women can see they can live the life they want.

**R:** Do you have a significant other?

**I:** What is a significant other?

**R:** So..A boyfriend or girlfriend.

**I:** Oh yes

**R:** You do? Okay, so is your significant other supportive towards you going to college?

**I:** Sure! He studies. He studies so um... like we know it's important to get a degree because we cannot have what we want like vacations, a great family and don't worry about the economic problems so it's important.

**R:** Is he Latino too?

**I:** Yes from Puerto Rico.

**R:** He is from Puerto Rico too?

**I:** Yes

**R:** Describe your transition into college. Was it easy or difficult?

**I:** Well... it's a culture shock. I study one year in Puerto Rico but they always talk Spanish so when I come here I don't know how to say the right words or talk the same so I would make small conversation and I will be okay or I need that or I will use that or how are you. But since I get to the Puente program I can talk the same to the English or be oh I can say that or how do I say that in English so I can express it right. SO it help me a lot to develop my English.

**R:** Great, thank you. What issues have you encountered academically so far?

**I:** Um... I am not a people person (laughter). I prefer to have my specific friends and hang out with them. But I don't know like the hardest thing is expressing yourself in front of everyone.

You get nervous and you say the wrong words and I don't know it's hard but you get use to it.

When you get around the same people like the Puente. It's the same people so you get like okay I am going to talk now and they know my history. They know I come form another place. So they don't judge and they understand.

**R:** What issues within our family, if any, have arisen, since you have chose to come to college?

**I:** Okay so I am studying biology. I am going to be marine biology so it's hard. I have to dedicate a lot of time. So I think the biggest issue would be family time. Because I gotta study and stay in the library. I gotta do so many things that sometime they will support me and sometimes they will be like okay where is our time.

**R:** Ok, that concludes the questions. Thank you very much Cathybeth.