Spring 2016 Sabbatical Proposal for Kristi Almeida-Bowin
Moorpark College Child Development Faculty
Submitted October 28, 2014

Personal Background

In 1987 I was hired by Ventura Community College District as a Child Development Associate at Oxnard College. In that position, I had the opportunity to be part of the team responsible for achieving the first National Association of the Education of Young Children Accreditation of any program in the entire Ventura County. I also was part of the planning committee that developed the design for the new child development center at Oxnard College. I was hired as an adjunct child development faculty member in at Oxnard College in 1989. Also, at Oxnard College I was the first California Early Childhood Mentor Program Grant Coordinator in the district. In 2001 I became a full time faculty member at Moorpark College. Over the past 15 years I have taught every course offered in Child Development. I helped develop with Cindy Sheaks-McGowan the new Associate in Child Development Transfer Degree. I worked with Linda Cravens and the Moorpark College preschool staff to design the new preschool in 2005. I had the opportunity to develop and teach the first Children with Special Needs course. I worked closely with the special education professionals in the county to have my child development students prepare and provide childcare for the annual “Walking the Path” conference for families of children with special needs for eight years. I have been responsible for facilitating the planning and implementing of activities by my child development students for the semi-annual Discovery Day fund raiser for the Moorpark College Child Development Center for last 15 years. Most recently, I have been able to re-secure the California Early Childhood Mentor Grant for Moorpark College. At Moorpark College I have served on Academic Senate for five years and been on the Work Force Development Committee for three years. I am the advisor of the first Child Development Club at Moorpark College started in 2013.

There has never been a sabbatical awarded to a Child Development faculty member at Moorpark College.

Sabbatical Proposal

Changing career opportunities in the profession are developing as a result of recent legislation. For example, credentialed teachers who are teaching the mandated transitional kindergarten (four and a half year olds) in California are now required for the first time, in addition to their credential, to complete twenty four units in early childhood development. These classes can be taken at a community college. Our transfer students have an advantage of having already completed the units before beginning the credential program. Many of the credentialed teachers will soon become a new student population for our department.

Over the past years there has been a significant increase in the number of children being diagnosed on the autistic spectrum. One in 68 children has been identified with Autism Spectrum Disorder, according
I have already discussed my plans with the other full time faculty member, and the part-time faculty members, as well as the Child Development Center director and staff. Responses have all been enthusiastically supportive.

**Value to Students**

The following required classes in the Child Development major require observations in programs with young children. Having opportunities to observe programs and children enriches students' understanding of children, the diversity of programs for children and the breadth and depth of opportunities for professionals in the field. Adding observation sites which include the programs that I will visit (those for transitional kindergarten and programs that include children with autism) will increase understanding of specific strategies for working with these populations. Also, child development students will become aware of new career opportunities.

- CD M02 Human Development Infancy through Adolescence - 230 students per semester
- CD M03 Child, Family & Community - 150 students per semester
- CD M04 Observation and Assessment – 54 students per semester
- CD M11 Principles and Programs in ECE – 95 students per semester
- CD M14 Introduction to Curriculum – 50 students per semester
- CD M23 Health, Safety and Nutrition for Children – 120 students per semester

Students taking Practicum Lab Courses and Internships have the opportunity to apply theory to practice through direct work with children. This helps students improve confidence and competence in their skills. Adding the component of working with public transitional kindergarten classes and programs serving children with autism will expand their skills in working with these new populations. One hundred students per semester participate in the required labs.

The knowledge of different careers and strategies in working with both of these populations will be incorporated when writing new student outcomes and updating curriculum, therefore providing students with the most current competencies to take into the workforce.

**Value to Moorpark College**

It is critical for our college to model outreach with community programs and resources by visiting programs and interviewing professionals. For 2013-2014 we had 548 Child Development majors, 20 A.S. degrees and 110 certificates. With more information and exposure to different career paths, it is likely that numbers of our certificate and degrees earned will increase.

**Value to the Ventura County Community College District**

There is a national movement to improve the quality and quantity of programs and provide Early Childhood Education for all young children. For example:

(Nationally) Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge www2.ed.gov
March – April

Visit programs for children with autism, interviewing experts, and conducting research on best practices and careers associated with these programs. Including but not limited to (More will be added upon confirmation with professionals)

Regina Reed, Director Personnel Development SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)

Lauri Jordan, Director of Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center  rainbow@tri-counties.org

Brett Taylor, principal and Sarah Galloway, assistant principal for Triton School for Children with Autism Camarillo CA  (Center for Children with mild to severe autism. ) 805-384-0205.


Diane Weis, Director Moorpark Unified School District Special Education. 805-378-6300

May – June

Develop presentations to be shared with Child Development faculty, Child Development Center staff, Counseling Department, and Behavioral Science (2) develop presentations for the Ventura County Association for the Education of Young Children (our local professional organization) (3) extend an offer to present the information to the other community colleges in our district (printed materials will be distributed) and (4) develop a list for internships for our students, a list of potential guest speakers for Child Development faculty and a list of new student-teaching sites. Create highlights of my interviews for addition to the department website. Written report of findings will be submitted.