

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal for Spring 2019

Project One: Faculty Classroom Community Building & Student Rapport
Building Guide

Project Two: Promoting Positive Rapport with Teachers Guide for Students

Submitted by Robert Chaparro, EOPS Counseling

Counselor's Sabbatical Leave Status

Full Time Hire Date: September 1998

Previous Sabbaticals: 0

Background of Sabbatical Project

"Trust between teachers and students is the affective glue that binds educational relationships together. Not trusting teachers has several consequences for students. They are unwilling to submit themselves to the perilous uncertainties of new learning. They avoid risk. They keep their most deeply felt concerns private. They view with cynical reserve the exhortations and instructions of teachers." Dr. Stephen Brookfield, University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis

During my 25-year career as a Counselor and Instructor, I have found that developing positive culturally relevant, equity minded and professional rapport with my students has played a major role in the successes that I have had. Whether the rapport is with an individual student or groups of students in a classroom, developing trust, fostering good communication and community have been my primary goals. I take time during the beginning of each course that I teach to get to know my students, to allow students to work together in groups so to develop community and to get know one another. I also share appropriate information about myself so that they can get to know me.

Getting to know students backgrounds is also critical when attempting to support students and their individual academic needs. According to the report on *"Who are The Students with Basic Skills Needs"*, the California Community Colleges assess 70%-85% of our students into a pre collegiate level in one or more basic skills. These students come from ethnically and culturally diverse backgrounds with financial, cultural, learning differences and personal/social needs and issues. Consequently, it is critical to get to know our students so to best serve them.

Purpose of Project

The purpose of my project is to create Guides for both EOPS Counseling faculty and EOPS Students that will provide specific strategies in the specified areas. These guides will be in the form of a soft cover handbook that will explain the goals and objectives of each Guide as well as practical strategies and potential sample situations and scenarios.

Components of Sabbatical Project

I have chosen to develop a twofold project. I plan to develop a Guide for Instructors that will assist in the process of developing rapport with students. Such strategies that will stem from two general categories that include: 1. Getting to know students backgrounds and 2. Engaging students in timely dialogue and classroom instructional strategies.

The second half of this Guide will be a series of exercises that an instructor can use to build community and team in the classroom. These exercises will be brief, easy to use activities that will build community, teach problem-solving skills and build trust.

The second project will be a guide that will assist students in developing rapport with their instructors. This guide will present students with specific strategies to allow them to create optimal professional working relationships with all of their faculty members. Such strategies will focus on: Class Preparation, Attendance, Appropriate and Inappropriate use of Technology, Etiquette and Civility, as well as Appropriate Communication Skills.

Value of Sabbatical Project to VCCCD and Ventura College

Once I complete this project, I will present to our EOPS Staff the Guides that I have created. I believe that these projects will further prepare our staff to serve our students. I plan to make the Student Guide Project available to our students to assist them as they continue to take Ventura College courses.

I also plan to propose a workshop at the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, (CCCEOPSA) Statewide Annual Conference in the Fall of 2019. At this workshop, I will discuss the findings of my project. I will present at this year's CCCEOPSA Conference a workshop designed to teach *Mindfulness* techniques to EOPS Faculty so that they can share with their students.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

I expect overall that this project will assist me in the development of my teaching and counseling skills, which will positively affect the students that I see during my counseling sessions. I will have more tools to utilize and will be more equipped to serve the ethnically and culturally diverse student population that we have at Ventura College. I expect that students will have a greater chance of success knowing that they have supportive faculty around them.

I believe that the classes that I teach will benefit from the project in that I will be best prepared to provide them with a classroom environment that is safe, supportive and conducive to learning.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Instructor

I believe that the completion of this project will benefit my counseling and my instructional strategies. I also believe the project will assist me in continuing my journey of research that will lead towards counseling and teaching excellence.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposal,

Respectfully,

Robert L Chaparro, MS

EOPS Counselor Ventura College