

Sabbatical Proposal for Spring 2016
Submitted by: Pamela Kennedy-Luna
Counseling Faculty

Faculty Background

I have been a full time Counseling Faculty member at Moorpark College for close to 15 years. As I Counselor, I provide comprehensive academic, career and personal counseling to students for the purpose of developing and facilitating the attainment of their academic, professional and personal objectives. Though working with students of all majors, I specialize in Business, Criminal Justice, and the Social/Behavioral Science majors such as History, Psychology and Sociology. I developed and implemented the Student Ambassador Program at Moorpark College, a program that is now a major aspect of Moorpark's orientation efforts. I have participated in shared governance on campus. Most recently, I have been a member of DTRW-SS at the district level for a number of years and this year I am a member of the Student Success and Equity Committee.

Prior to Moorpark College I worked as a high school and middle school Counselor at schools with large minority student populations. I worked for the Early Academic Outreach Program at the University of California at Santa Barbara, first as an Outreach Counselor and then as Coordinator. As a Counselor, I provided one to one and group academic and personal counseling to middle and senior high school underrepresented students and their parents. As Coordinator of the program, I was responsible for the development, direction and evaluation of this tri-county student developmental program, designed to increase the number of University of California eligible and college bound minority students. While in graduate school I worked as a Counselor for the Educational Opportunity Program at the UC Santa Barbara. I include these experiences in this proposal to allow you the opportunity to see how my previous work related experiences reflect my desire to work with the population in which my proposal seeks to assist.

This is my first time applying for a sabbatical.

History

The Student Success Act requires the coordination of Student Success and Support Program (3SP) and Equity plans. While 3SP focuses on services for individuals such as assessment, orientation and educational plans, student equity focuses on at

risk groups needing assistance and services. Student Equity plans created at each California Community College will need to address equity issues and work to improve the disproportional impact on certain groups or populations. The Student Equity plans must determine the students at risk, develop goals and implement actions to help these populations. The success of these plans will be determined by a number of issues including access to college, course completion, degree and certificate completion, and transfer rates.

Equity Plan at Moorpark College

In August of 2014, Moorpark College created a draft of its Equity Plan. The VCCCD Board of Trustees approved the plan in Fall, 2014. The plan lists specific goals/outcomes of the Student Equity Plan as well as activities and actions to achieve these goals.

Proposal

For my sabbatical, I would like to focus my attention on assisting with the success of Moorpark College's Student Equity Plan by researching and evaluating programs, whose primary goals are designed to assist the populations Moorpark College is committed to through the Equity Plan. Specifically, I hope to identify program activities that have been successful with populations determined as at risk through the college's equity plan: African American, Hispanic/Latino and former foster youth.

During my 1 semester sabbatical, I would like to:

1. Enroll and complete a college course to increase my knowledge and appreciation for the challenges of underrepresented groups. Courses I am considering are:

California State University Channel Islands/Open University

Sociology 201-Social Problems

Anthropology 102- Cultural Anthropology

Ventura Community College

American Ethnic Studies 41-Contemporary African American Experience

American Ethnic Studies 11 Racial and Ethnic Group Relations

Sociology –Social Problems

Anthropology-Cultural Anthropology

2. Visit the following student support programs to evaluate/analyze their current services and best practices that could be considered as activities and actions Moorpark College could implement to achieve equity plan goals. I am not proposing to initiate a large-scale program such as these programs at Moorpark

College. I am proposing to seek best practices and small-scale actions that could be implemented to strengthen our equity plan efforts. The programs are:

University of California/Educational Opportunity Program- The University of California system wide Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) is committed to providing support and information services. The program strives to maximize a student's academic success to graduation. UC/EOP services all students while focusing on those who are income eligible and first-generation undergraduates.

University of California /Early Academic Outreach Program-Early Academic Outreach is the University of California's largest college preparation program. This program works with students and parents with information to make the most of college. EAOP services underrepresented schools in increasing the numbers of their students attending college.

California State University/Educational Opportunity Program- CSU Educational Opportunity Programs at the CSU system has provided educational access and opportunity for more than 250,000 low-income and educationally disadvantaged students throughout California for over 40 years.

Puente Project at a Los Angeles County Community College-This program comprises of academic and personal mentoring programs for community college students.

Santa Barbara City College-SBCC received the 2012 Chancellor's Student Success Award for its Express to Success Program and the 2007 Chancellor's Award for Best Practices in Student Equity for its Partnership for Student Success Program. I would like to research and make contacts with SBCC to obtain detailed information regarding the successes of these and other SBCC programs.

Moorpark College has identified goals, including the following in their Student Equity Plan:

- Access-Identify and reduce barriers that affect students in order to provide welcome, support and access to all students.
- Increase the successful course completion of at risk students.
- Increase degree and certificate completion rate for these targeted at risk students.

I will visit, research, and evaluate statewide programs that have been successful in working with our targeted student populations, and provide Moorpark College with detailed information on activities and services that could assist in achieving those student equity goals.

- High School outreach programs –servicing the needs of the students and their schools.
- Orientations and first year student models
- Parent components
- Summer bridge programs
- Student peer programs
- Counseling best practices specific to target group

Benefits from the project:

The primary mission of the District is to produce student learning in lower division level academic transfer and career/vocational degree and certificate programs. The mission of the District states that effective, efficient student support services are offered to assist in the accomplishment of this primary mission, based on need and available resources. My sabbatical supports the mission of the District. This sabbatical seeks to determine and implement effective student services specifically designed to provide support to specific targeted population.

Benefit to Moorpark College

Each of the three community colleges in the Ventura Community College District has been charged to coordinate Student Equity Plans that identify students at risk, and implement interventions/services to support these students. My sabbatical is designed to assist specifically in that charge.

This proposal would directly benefit Moorpark College as we continue to work towards meeting the goals and outcomes of our Student Equity Plan. As the college continues to work towards determining goals and actions, this could provide specific suggestions of activities that have been successful at other institutions.

Benefit to Students

Programs and peer support groups targeted to specific student populations increase college retention and completion. This proposal would provide data proven models of activities already determined successful at local University of California, California State University, and California Community College campuses. If implemented at Moorpark, these could possibly increase the success rate of our at risk/impacted student populations in: course completion/retention, transfer rates, and associate degree/ certificate completion.

Personal Professional Development Benefit

Through this sabbatical, I will gain a better understanding of the Student Success and Support Plan statewide and on our campus. I will have the opportunity to increase my knowledge regarding the challenges of underrepresented students through the completion of a college course work. I will also learn specifics about area programs/activities that could benefit my counseling abilities. I intend to learn as much as possible so that I can bring back some of the best counseling and student service strategies to my department.

Sabbatical Timeline:

Fall 2014

- Member of the Student Success and Equity Committee at Moorpark College.
- Met with the College SSSP Coordinator on sabbatical proposal and the direction of the Moorpark's SSSP and Equity Plans.
- Discuss proposal with members of the Counseling Department.
- Will meet with Moorpark's EOPS Coordinator.

Spring/Fall 2015

- Continue to attend monthly meetings as a member of the Student Success and Equity Committee.
- Present sabbatical to Counseling Department, Orientation and EOPS.
- Attend SSSP conference.
- Meet with College SSSP Coordinator and EVP for updates on college's Student Equity goals and activities.
- Register for Spring semester course.

Spring 2016

January

- Begin Spring semester college course.
- Continue to participate as an active member in the Student Success and Equity Committee at Moorpark College.
- Schedule monthly SSSP Coordinator meetings.
- Begin to schedule initial meetings with Directors, Coordinators, Counselors, and students of statewide programs whose primary goals and activities are designed to maximize a student's academic success to graduation. Initial meetings will be with Directors and Coordinators. Follow up visits will be to meet with Counselors, students, and to attend actual program workshops and activities.

Programs to visit:

University of California Santa Barbara/Early Academic Outreach

University of California Santa Barbara/Educational Opportunity Program
California State University Northridge/Educational Opportunity Program/Transitional Program
Santa Barbara City College
Los Angeles Community College/La Puente Project

February

- Attend monthly Student Success and Equity Committee meetings at Moorpark College.
- Meet with SSSP Coordinator for monthly updates.
- Continue to schedule meetings with statewide programs.
- Begin follow up visits to:
Attend program activities.
Interview program Counselors and student participants.

March/April

- Attend Student Success and Equity Committee meetings.
- Meet with SSSP Coordinator for monthly updates.
- Visit additional equity programs:

California State University Channel Islands-Promoting Achievement Through Hope (PATH) Program, Educational Opportunity Program and New Student, Orientation and Transition Program.
California Lutheran University/Trio Upward Bound
LA & Ventura County Community Colleges for SSSP and equity best practices.

- Begin to compile written reports on statewide and local programs
- Present sabbatical updates to Counseling Department, highlighting possible activities/actions for implementation.

May

- Complete Spring semester college course
- Continue SSSP Coordinator meetings.
- Attend Student Success and Equity Committee meetings.

Fall 2016

- Present results and provide written summary of sabbatical project to SSSP Coordinator and Student Success and Equity committee.
- Present results to Counseling Department for discussion on implementation of program activities and/or best practices.
- Provide documentation of coursework completed in the form of an academic transcript.