

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal for Spring 2011

"Gateway" Course & Support Services Development Project

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Faculty Sabbatical Leave Status: Full-time hire date: December 1985. Number of sabbaticals taken during twenty-three years as full-time faculty = 1.

Background for Project

Ventura College has a significant number of non-native students with limited English proficiency (LEP) skills. The majority of these students enroll in ESL classes and have very limited access to other degree applicable courses. As the enrollment of this unique and specific student population increases it is vital that more "transitional" courses be developed to meet their longer-term goals, which for most, go beyond the acquisition of the English language.

One of the primary missions of this college is provide support for students in achieving certificate programs, associates degrees, and transfer programs. The development and implementation of counseling courses taught in the student's native language, which can be taken for credit along with their English development courses, is vital and necessary for these students to progress academically. In a recent article by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy entitled: *Steps to Success: Analyzing Milestone Achievement To Improving Community College Student Outcomes*, it was stated that one of the ways to enhance student outcomes, is "to provide students with opportunities to accumulate credits and enroll in gateway classes that lead students towards educational pathways". It has been well documented that the retention of LEP students increases when students receive intensive academic and career counseling support. These students need to know what is needed to be successful in a community college and how to pursue various educational pathways early on.

Purpose of Sabbatical Project

The main objective of this project is to develop curriculum and expand the delivery of services to the LES student population at Ventura College and the community at large. The courses which would be created would be similar to the courses now in place and currently being taught by counseling faculty, however, they would be designed to be taught in Spanish and/or bilingually. These courses will be developed and taught both traditionally and via long distance. This project would also include the development of online Spanish orientations and the development of a counseling and general information section "En Espanol" at our Ventura College website.

Components of the Project

Curriculum Development

Develop culturally appropriate course content and lesson plans in Spanish for counseling and guidance courses in such areas as: career development; transfer; student success and college orientation workshops.

Research

Explore and evaluate instructional tools including multi media and computer software programs that can be utilized with this population. For example, career development software for limited English proficient students and resources to assess interest, values, and abilities in Spanish.

Long Distance Course Development Training

Attend classes and or seminars that will cover topics such as; development of Web-based course content; introduction to online teaching and learning; online course management, and introduction to multimedia for online teaching courses.

Develop a manual for faculty online training

Develop power point presentations for counseling faculty who desire to teach these courses online or by traditional methodologies.

Currently there is only one member in the counseling faculty who has been trained to teach courses online. This person has stated that she will retire in December of this year.

Develop counseling component on Ventura College Web site in Spanish.

Develop a counseling component at our web site in Spanish. Work with technology personnel to establish access to general information in Spanish for the community and college students through our college web site.