

## Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal Spring, 2014

Transfer Degrees in Health Science, Nutrition and Exercise Science  
Alternative Medicine Colleges Transfer Articulation  
Health/Holistic Studies Web Page  
Holistic Health Hybrid Classes

Submitted by Raeann Koerner  
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Full-time Hire: January, 1981; part-time hire Ventura College: January, 1979; part-time hire Moorpark College: August, 1977.

Previous Sabbatical: One in 1992. [Created a West County Health Care Directory]

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Linda Rovai, retired Ventura College counselor, and I created the General Studies Associates Degree in Holistic Studies in 2008. The degree was approved by the state chancellor's office in July, 2009. In the four years since the Holistic Studies degree's inception, there have been 27 Holistic Studies graduates. In the same time period, 11 holistic health proficiency awards have been earned by Ventura College students. The Ventura College Holistic Health program continues to expand as student interest continues to grow. Students enter the dynamic field of holistic health and alternative medicine for a variety of reasons. Some enroll in our classes because they want to improve their personal health; some work to make holistic health and alternative medicine their career.

Although the holistic health general studies degree offers a breadth of information and introduces students to educational and career opportunities, it doesn't prepare them for the rigor of study within the science-based programs of chiropractic medicine, naturopathic medicine and traditional Chinese medicine. We need to better prepare our students by creating transfer agreements with alternative medicine colleges and universities. This is an initiative in the 2013/2014 Health/Holistic Studies Program Review. (HEDV1402)

I want to strengthen the Health/Holistic Studies program in the areas that are less than optimal. When I retire in several years, I wish to leave a solid program to my successor (by creating a seamless transition) so he/she will be able to maintain the expanding Health and Holistic Studies Program.

The Holistic Health Program has attracted the interest of the outside community, particularly within Ojai and Ventura. We coordinate holistic health oriented events throughout the school year. The promotion of our holistic health classes, degrees, and events outside Ventura College has been lacking. We need to better publicize our holistic health classes, degree programs, and activities to encourage more community involvement. We need to develop a holistic health web page so we can post events related to our Holistic Health Club, and information regarding our associates degree and proficiency awards, etc.

Community colleges statewide are embracing the development of associate degrees for transfer. I co-created the associates transfer degree in Kinesiology. ADTs guarantee community college students admission to a California State University. There are two ADTs in the hopper related to health: Health Science and Nutrition, and one related to kinesiology in Exercise Science. The creation of these transfer degrees is the top initiative (HED1404) in the 2013/2014 Health/Holistic Studies program review.

All of the core classes in the Holistic Health Program are taught in the classroom. We hope to offer some of our classes as hybrid courses. None of the holistic health teachers are certified to teach distance education. I plan to be the first one.

#### **PURPOSE OF SABBATICAL LEAVE:**

The purpose of my sabbatical leave is:

- to develop state-approved associates transfer degrees in Nutrition, Health Science, Exercise Science;
- to better publicize the Holistic Health Program through the creation of a holistic health web page;
- to offer alternative modalities of teaching through the development of hybrid holistic health classes;
- to have the articulation agreements and/or transfer degrees in place non-traditional colleges;
- and to design and implement the web pages for several holistic health classes offered as hybrids.

#### **COMPONENTS OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT:**

There are four components to my sabbatical leave project.

1. Create new Associates Degrees for Transfer (ADT) in Exercise Science, Health Science and Nutrition. I plan to work with Gloria Arevalo to create new transfer degrees for Ventura College students interested in transferring to a California State University. The transfer model curriculum for these degrees is currently being developed through the state chancellor's office. After reviewing the final transfer

model curriculum, inevitably, there will be new courses mandated by the state chancellor's office. I will create any and all new courses relevant to the new degrees. This is initiative HED1404 in the 2013/2014 Health/Holistic Studies program review.

2. Develop a transfer degree or articulation agreement with holistic health/alternative medicine colleges and universities to provide adequate preparation for the rigorous science based programs and to guarantee admission for Ventura College transfer students. To accomplish this, I plan to visit the colleges and universities within the three alternative medicine modalities: Colleges and universities of traditional Chinese medicine, chiropractic and naturopathic medicine.
  - Visit the following colleges of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) located in Southern California: Southern California University School of Oriental Medicine and Acupuncture in Los Angeles, Emperors' College in Santa Monica, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine in San Diego, Yo San University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Los Angeles, and Samra College in Santa Monica.
  - Visit the following chiropractic colleges: Cleveland Chiropractic College in Los Angeles and Southern California University of Health Sciences, located in Los Angeles.
  - Visit the following colleges of naturopathic medicine: Bastyr University in San Diego, and the California College of Natural Medicine.

I plan to observe several classes at each college and speak with the admissions director. Afterward, I plan to develop a transfer degree and/or articulation agreement(s) to the non-traditional colleges within the holistic health and alternative medicine field. My hope is to develop one transfer degree or transfer articulation agreement that will serve the three major models of alternative medicine colleges. This proposal, Initiative HED1402 in the 2013/2014 Health/Holistic Studies program review, was voted a high priority by the Health Education Department.

3. Develop a health/holistic studies web page. I plan to work with Victory Kitamura from the Ventura County Community College District to develop and implement a Holistic Health web page. This is linked to initiative HED1405 in the 2013/2014 Health/Holistic Studies Program Review.
4. Train in the Desire to Learn distance education platform and offer hybrid classes in several holistic health classes. I plan to train in the distance education platform, Desire to Learn. Once approved by the

Ventura College curriculum committee, I plan to offer at least one of the holistic health classes in a hybrid format in the spring semester of 2016.

#### **VALUE OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT TO THE VCCCD AND VENTURA COLLEGE**

With the passage of SB1456, the Student Success Act, a new funding model for community colleges will be implemented. 60% of the VCCCD's funding will be directly related to the student success measures articulated in the Student Success Act. Student success will be measured, in part, by the number of degrees and certificates earned. With additional associate degrees for transfer in Health and Kinesiology, student success measures will improve. As a result, funding to the VCCCD may increase. At the completion of my sabbatical, there will be at minimum of three and possibly four additional transfer degrees and/or transfer articulations in place.

#### **VALUE OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT TO VENTURA COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The greatest benefactors of my sabbatical project will be the Ventura College students. Students will have increased educational and career opportunities with the completion of the new transfer degrees and articulation agreements. The degrees will give students a greater sense of purpose and focus toward achieving their academic and career goals, instead of floundering in the sea of uncertainty.

Students have different learning styles. The addition of a hybrid class format in selected holistic health classes will give our holistic health students another forum for learning.

With the creation of the Health/Holistic Studies web-site, students interested in holistic health will have easy access to information regarding transfer degrees, major prep for alternative medicine colleges and universities, holistic health activities and events held throughout the academic school year, and information regarding the Ventura College Holistic Health Club. This is especially important because Ventura College is a leader in holistic health education for the Ventura community.

#### **VALUE OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT TO THE VENTURA COLLEGE HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENTS**

The kinesiology program will be strengthened with the addition of the Exercise Science transfer degree. The health department will be strengthened with the addition of the Health Science and the Nutrition transfer

degrees. I will have time to create any new courses related to the new transfer degrees. All new curriculum will be in place when I return to teach. With the new degrees, there will be increased justification for hiring a new full-time faculty member. I plan to share everything I learn with my colleagues in health and kinesiology and will be energized to continue collaborating with them on new endeavors upon my return.

### **VALUE OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT TO THE INSTRUCTOR**

I have been teaching in the college district for 35 years. I plan to teach full time for several more years before I retire. At this stage of my career, I am looking forward to completing several projects on my "bucket list." This will be impossible without a sabbatical leave. As department chair, holistic health club advisor, and full-time professor, there never seems to be enough time to work on and ultimately finish the many meaningful projects I have envisioned over the years.

I am looking forward to visiting, naturopathic, chiropractic, and traditional Chinese medicine colleges. I am excited about sitting in on some of classes and being a student again. I want to share what I learn from the alternative medicine curriculum with my students and my colleagues when I return the following semester.

I am also ready to embrace new challenges, specifically adding a hybrid component to the holistic health classes and creating a health/holistic studies website.

The Holistic Health Program will, hopefully, be my legacy at Ventura College. I want to feel that I accomplished my goals and completed my mission; that I developed a thriving, sustaining holistic health program and that I created educational and career opportunities for Ventura College students.

I would like this sabbatical to be a meaningful contribution to a college that has given me the opportunity to serve students and faculty.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

*Raeann Koerner*