

Everardo Gutierrez Rivera
EOPS/CARE Counselor
Oxnard College

Sabbatical Proposal: Spring 2021

1. Background and Statement of Purpose:

I would like to take two graduate course in counseling and guidance at a local university. Also, I would like to visit CARE programs at Region VI, and several Southern California community colleges. Per the State Chancellors Office: “The CARE program offers additional support services so students can transition from welfare dependency by securing the education, training, and marketable skills needed for self-sufficiency and upward social mobility.” Region VI is the central coast region of California, the colleges within this region are: Allan Hancock, Cuesta, Santa Barbara, Antelope Valley, Moorpark, Taft, College of Canyons, Oxnard, and Ventura College. I plan to visit most of the colleges within our region in order to gain knowledge and implement best practices, and ways to assist and motivate CARE students’ transition out of poverty. I will be speaking to CARE Coordinators and counselors about best practices, success rates, meeting with current CARE students a different community colleges.

CARE Students are single-parents currently receiving cash-aid, and most of the mare on welfare to work program with county assistance. At Oxnard College, the CARE Program is designed to assist single-parents on cash-aid, providing holistic counseling to address the many obstacles student face to achieve self-sufficiency via the educational pipeline.

Statement of Purpose:

1. During my sabbatical, I would like to visit CARE programs at community colleges throughout Southern California and Region VI in order to research, analyze and understand best practices for single-parents on cash-aid
2. I will take two graduate level counseling classes at a local university which will provide current and relevant research on counseling, guidance and development in multicultural society, and student retention and success: EDCG 581 Diverse Perspectives in Education and Culturally Proficient Leadership (3 credits); EDCG 584 College Student Retention and Success (3 credits).

2. Rationale:

- A. I have noticed that most CARE students have challenging lives outside of college: financial difficulties, personal barriers, family obligation and life challenges are constant. However, many students have inner drive to challenge these temporary obstacles in order to complete their academic and educational goal.
- B. This sabbatical will give me a deeper understanding of temporary obstacles single-parents face, how to employ relevant and current counseling practices, and provide best-practices on how to encourage, empower, co-power students. I will be implementing the findings of the sabbatical in counseling sessions, EASEL workshops, EOPS/CARE recognition presentation, and the Personal Growth 100A class I teach.
- C. While visiting different CARE programs at different colleges, I will gain an understanding how different colleges address and resolve obstacles single-parents face. This insight will give me a best practice approach to solving and addressing these temporary obstacles. Once I have completed the counseling classes, I will apply relevant and current counseling practices.
- D. Oxnard College has been a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) for many years, I want to understand what motivates students to pursue and complete their educational goals and how to help single-parent students reach their full potential.
 - 1. A high percentage of our student population are on California Promise Grant (BOGG)
 - 2. All CARE students are on Financial Aid.
 - 3. A high number of CARE students at our college are first-generation college students.
 - 4. A high number of CARE students are re-entry, single-parent, and adult learners.
- E. I will make presentations at Oxnard College Academic Senate, local elementary schools, community meetings, and different social organizations. I will implement the outcome of the sabbatical findings in my counseling

sessions and personal growth class I teach. In keeping with the mission and vision of Oxnard College and the VCCCD, I will research best practices that promote student success, access, and student learning (OC Catalog).

3.1 Implementation Procedures:

I will be taking several graduate level counseling class at a local university in order to update my skills and keep with current counseling strategies and practices. I will also visit other CARE and EOPS programs at different community colleges to find out best practices, with regard to success, motivational, co-empowerment for CARE student population.

3.2 Projected Results:

I believe this valuable experience will enhance my counseling approach, elevate my passion toward my profession, encourage a more compassionate practitioner mentality, and generate renewed love and motivation for my profession. I would like to present findings at general counseling meeting, EOPS/CARE counseling meeting, and CARE and EOPS Welcome workshops.

3.3 Dissemination Plan: Benefit to Colleagues/Student/College

I will make a presentation at the EOPS/CARE, general counseling in-service and district wide (VCCCD) counseling meetings, and student success committee. The project will extend to the community by making presentations at local elementary schools, community meetings, and different social organizations. I will also share my presentation at Academic Senate.

3.4 Projected Timeline:

1. I will enroll in two graduate level counseling classes at a local university. The topics will include current and relevant counseling practices in a multicultural society and college student retention and success. I will be enrolled from January to May of 2021.
2. I will participate in several workshops/conferences/seminars on motivation, resilience, encouragement, and co-empowerment throughout my sabbatical.
3. I will visit several community college CARE programs in Region VI and throughout Southern California to learn best practices on how to address and assist single-parents.
4. These visit will showcase successful practices in order to help CARE students' transition from cash-aid dependency toward self-sufficiency.

4. Past Contribution to the District:

A). Scholarship: This sabbatical will greatly benefit my professional career at Oxnard College by providing a semester to further analyze what makes students persevere through unimaginable obstacles, become successful with limited resources, and how students have achieved greatness via the educational pipeline.

B). I have been the representative for EOPS/CARE at Campus Use, Development, and Safety Committee (CUDS); I have participated in many hiring committees. At district level: I have been on several interviews hiring committee's for managerial positions and the Interim President at OC. Presently, I am on the AFT Executive Committee as FT VP for Oxnard College. At a community level: I have sat on several non-profit boards; I have been coaching youth soccer for 8 years; I have been the Chair for my son's school Parent School Site Council for two years; I have been part of social organizations that promote education, preventive health, social justice, and fair housing practices.

5. Length of Service and Past Sabbaticals:

I have been employed by the VCCCD for the past twelve years, currently assigned to Oxnard College EOPS/CARE as the CARE Lead Counselor. I am applying for a one semester sabbatical. This will be my first sabbatical.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Everardo Gutierrez Rivera.

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