Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal for Fall 2020

Submitted by Chloe Branciforte
Geoscience Department
November 1st, 2019

Instructor's Status: Full-Time, tenured
Hire Date: August 2014
Previous Leaves: 0

SABBATICAL PROJECT AND DESCRIPTION:

- **FALL 2020:** Development of an Open Educational Resource (OER) for physical geology lab to ensure geology labs can be offered in all modalities, including hybrid and fully online.
    - A letter of intent was submitted (10/25/2019) to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) for the Open Educational Resources Initiative (OERI) grant. This grant will be used to generate materials to increase student success and address educational inequities by increasing the availability of open educational resources (OER) and adoption of OER text-equivalents by California community college (CCC) faculty. ***All work for the grant must be completed no later December 15, 2020***. If the letter of intent is selected there will be a Request for Proposals made on November 8 and submissions will be due at 5:00pm on Monday, December 16, 2019.
        - ****CONTINGENCY*** *– If this grant is not awarded, I still plan on developing a lab manual for physical geology and bringing our geology labs online. The current timeline of the grant would require a Fall 2020 sabbatical. However, if the grant is not awarded, the timeline becomes more flexible and if necessary, a Spring 2021 sabbatical could be completed.*

COMPONENTS OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT:

- *Part 1: Developing an OER lab manual for physical geology.*
    - *Curriculum Development*:
        - Content for most labs is contained to a single lab manual. University of California transfer policy dictates that "Lab manuals from either a publisher or compiled by CCC faculty (e.g., "CHEM 001 Lab Manual, CCC Chemistry department, 2019") are acceptable." To follow UC

transfer policy, keep costs low, and ensure good content, development of an OER is a reasonable solution. Production of new lab activities will be necessary to ensure student learning outcomes are met for each weekly topic. New research and case studies will be added to improve student comprehension and critical thinking skills.

- *Lab Activities:*
  - Each lab activity will need to be developed. Activities will include all lab exercises and any pre- and post-lab components. Additionally, open source imagery, including diagrams, graphs, tables, images, video and maps will need to be generated. This will likely include visiting geologically significant localities to generate high quality imagery, and if permitted the collection of materials.
- *Student Access:*
  - The completed lab manual will be printed locally through the VC Bookstore and made available to students online to ensure the cost remains low.
- *Department Access:*
  - The completed lab manual will be available as an editable electronic file available to all geology faculty. This will ensure any future edits, updates and changes can be made quickly and efficiently.

- *Part 2: Improvement of course offerings for all modalities (F2F, hybrid, fully online).*
  - Most students enroll in physical geology to complete the physical/natural science requirements. Physical geology satisfies the general education requirement for physical science for both CSU-GE and IGETC. Our geology lecture courses are delivered in all modalities (face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online). However, our geology labs remain face-to-face only. Presently, we offer six face-to-face sections of physical geology lab (GEOL V02L) per academic year, this translates to roughly 145 students.
  - For many geology courses there is often a physical component. Tangibility in the face-to-face modality can be completed successfully by introducing students to rock, mineral and fossil samples. In an online lab course, tangibility becomes limited. Providing quality samples and imagery becomes more challenging. We may be able to address the tactile experience through the development or purchase of rock, mineral and

fossil sample kits. In order to keep costs low and determine logistics, this idea will need additional exploration.

VALUE OF THE SABBATICAL PROJECT:

- **VCCCD and Ventura College value**
  - With a low-cost lab manual, students would be more likely to register, and remain enrolled, in a geology lab.
  - Expansion to hybrid and online geology labs will provided additional physical science lab opportunities for those students who want to earn a completely online degree.
  - Low cost, open source materials improve accessibility and ensure access for all students.
- **Student value***.*
  - Lab manuals from the publisher are expensive and often function as workbooks leaving students unable to sell them back at the end of the semester. Low-cost options reduce the possibility of a student not enrolling in our labs because of finances.
  - Most students need a physical science lab requirement to graduate. Expansion to hybrid and online geology labs will provided additional physical science lab opportunities for those students who want to earn a completely online degree.
- **Personal value**
  - Physical geology will likely see increased student enrollment and retention. Additional geology majors may be gained.
  - Ensures geology remains current, inclusive and meeting our student's diverse needs.

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