

## OXNARD COLLEGE SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL, SPRING 2022

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### Abstract

The purpose of this sabbatical leave is to study Spanish in an immersion program at the Polyglot Language Institute in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (an alternate program is the Cemanahuac Spanish School in Cuernavaca Mexico). Oxnard College is a Hispanic Serving Institution with a 76% Latino student population. Spanish as second or primary language is the most common language spoken amongst the Oxnard College student population. Therefore I see a great value to the Oxnard College student and the institution in becoming linguistically proficient in Spanish as well as culturally competent in a Latin culture. Many EOPS students at Oxnard College can benefit from my professional growth. Through my learning, interaction and living experience, I will bring back the rich diversity of Latino culture and language to Oxnard College. Overall, I will increase my cultural competency and connect with Oxnard College students that will engender the emotional and cultural communication that research has proven produces student success.

## SABBATICAL PROJECT PROPOSAL, SPRING 2022

### Purpose

The purpose of this leave is to provide an opportunity to study Spanish and participate in Latin culture.

### Objectives

1. To learn to speak and write in Spanish at a proficient level.
2. To learn about the Latin culture as it relates to family, values, and education.

### Value of Sabbatical Project to Oxnard College and VCCCD

This leave as proposed provides me with the professional growth and support to further uphold the Oxnard College Vision Statement to enhance our students connections to the world by promoting leadership qualities, their understanding of global interdependence, their appreciation of the vast diversity of human culture, and their cross cultural competencies. It will also provide me with an opportunity to increase my global awareness and cultural competency and foreign language proficiency as it related to my assignment as an EOPS counselor and personal growth professor. The Latinx student population is the highest number of all groups at Oxnard College. In the

past few years, I have had several immigrant students and their families seek my help as a counselor. Although I am familiar with Spanish, I lack full speaking, reading, and writing proficiency.

#### Value of Sabbatical Project to the Oxnard College students

This sabbatical would provide me with an opportunity to round out my Spanish skills, connect with Oxnard College EOPS Spanish speaking students, their families, and the Latino community in Oxnard. Dr. Tara Jasso, who has completed research in critical race theory, educational access and opportunity examines six forms of cultural capital that she believes creates a model of “Cultural Wealth.” This Cultural Wealth model is made up of a student’s cultural capital, consisting of communal aspiration, language, family, socialization, navigation and resistance. Dr. Yasso notes that as educational professionals and institutions develop an appreciative and affirming acceptance for these elements of Cultural Wealth, students of color are likelier to be successful in higher education. Student equity research evidence shows a disproportionate rate in degree and certificate completion for Latino male students. In order to help these students excel we must embrace and build upon our student’s existing cultural capital. I know being able to share my story, my knowledge and my expertise in Spanish will make me a more effective student advocate, a better EOPS counselor and a better agent for change, tapping into the existing capital that these students already have.

One conclusion is that the Latino men and English as second learners are not meeting with counselors and are not being encouraged to become a part of the fabric and foundation that makes up the college. Therefore, finding ways to linguistically and culturally connect and relate to these students is important to the success of the college and the students. An increase in relating and connection will also translate into more degree and certificate completion, which could also mean a better scorecard for Oxnard College.

#### Value of Sabbatical Project to Instructor

After returning from sabbatical, aside from submitting a formal report of my experience with language acquisition. I would like to coordinate a cultural event on campus presenting my experience in learning Spanish and being immersed in a Spanish speaking culture. I also plan to propose a workshop at the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, (CCCEOPSA) Statewide Annual Conference in Fall of 2022. I also plan to present at the 2022 EOPS Summer Institute at UCSB.

I am requesting sabbatical leave for one semester, Spring 2022. The timing would allow for sufficient office coverage in EOPS as well as potential relief from this current COVID pandemic. A sabbatical to fully immerse myself into the language and culture, which is the most effective and efficient way to learn a language. Removing myself from my California west coast norms and culture will leave me feeling vulnerable. I will experience what many of our students at Oxnard College might feel. I will experience the vulnerabilities that English language learners, first generation in college, re-entry, and newly immigrated students experience. This experience will help me grow professionally and personally as it will allow me to fully empathize with the barriers that some of our students are faced with and overcome.