

*Sabbatical Request*

**Kara Lybarger-Monson**

**English Professor, Moorpark College**

**Sabbatical Proposal for Prospective Leave during Fall Semester 2025**

- Full-Time English Department Faculty Member since Fall 2005
- Proposed leave for Fall 2025
- Previous sabbatical in the Spring 2018: Best practices for teaching students with learning disabilities, such as Attention Deficit Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Autism Spectrum Disorder, in the college classroom environment.

**Topic:** Study contemporary American poetry, including regional poets, to broaden and diversify the curriculum. The goal is to provide faculty with the best practices in teaching contemporary poets that are not often anthologized to promote inclusivity and sensitivity for multicultural poets and to instill a sense of belonging in our diverse student body.

**Proposed Objectives**

- Create a module with lessons, discussions, assignments, and videos and post to Canvas Commons. Colleagues will be able to integrate it into their English 1B and English 1A courses regarding best practices for studying contemporary American poetry. Provide links to recent material and ensure appropriate copyright where necessary.
- Create a module with lessons, discussions, assignments, and videos and post to Canvas Commons specifically for English 14: Poetry, which I teach.

- Meet and interview regional poets in Los Angeles and the surrounding community to provide first-hand accounts for primary source content.
- Visit the Los Angeles Public Library to learn about the Los Angeles Poet Laureate and the Los Angeles Poet Society.
- Research Latinx, LGBTQIA+, African-American, Asian American, Native American poets.
- Read and incorporate UCLA's Poetry in Los Angeles LibGuide.
- Read articles and books from the tentative bibliography and create a broader bibliography for colleagues.
- Attend conferences, local panels with poets, and poetry readings to formulate content. Attend events at Cal State LA and other universities.
- Visit the Beyond Baroque, a Venice-based literary arts center, and attend poetry readings and workshops, as well as I plan to visit the following well-known regional establishments, such as Da Poetry Lounge, Re/Arte Centro Literario, and Sims Library of Poetry.
- Create a best practice lesson plan for the English department's Best Practices Workshop.

**I. Post-Sabbatical Activity and Dissemination of Research**

- Provide a report for campus-wide distribution to my colleagues regarding best practices for the Study contemporary American poetry to broaden and diversify the curriculum. The goal is to provide faculty with the best practices in teaching contemporary poets that

are not often anthologized to promote inclusivity and sensitivity for multicultural poets and to instill a sense of belonging in our diverse student body.

- Post a module with lessons, discussions, assignments, and videos and post to Canvas Commons for English 1A, English 1B, and English 14: Poetry, which I teach.
- Provide a presentation on Multicultural Day.

## **II. Background and Rationale**

I teach English 14: Poetry, English 1A: English Composition, and English 1B: Literature: Critical Thinking and Composition on ground and online. College textbooks contain mostly Caucasian poets with narrow offerings multicultural poets and almost nothing for contemporary poets. This leaves faculty with either developing their curriculum or leaving it out. By creating a module within Canvas Commons, it allows faculty to have a ready-made material to integrate contemporary American and regional poets into their curriculum, which has a direct impact on our diverse student body and contributes to a sense of belonging for those poets they do often see represented in the respective cultures. This also promotes retention for students of diverse backgrounds.

## **III. Communication with Colleagues at ACCESS and “Value of the proposed leave on instruction or service to students”:**

- The “value of the proposed leave on instruction or service to students” would be the direct impact that the Canvas Commons material has on my colleagues and how they utilize the resources in their respective classrooms. In addition, my students will be

directly impacted by the findings in English 14: Poetry and English 1B (online and on ground).

**IV. Results and Benefits to Moorpark College and “Value of the proposed leave to the college”:**

- With regard to the value of the proposed leave to the college, the goal is to provide current and future faculty with the best practices in teaching contemporary American and regional poets. Our colleagues at Ventura and Oxnard will have access to the material.
- For the campus-wide community, the results would be having access to a report along with a presentation on the topic during Multicultural Day.
- The benefit to the college departments will include access to the Canvas Common module. I will provide the English department with a Best Practices Workshop concerning my sabbatical.
- All materials will be provided in Canvas Commons.

**V. Consistent with the VCCCD Mission and “Value of the proposed leave to the district”:**

- My sabbatical is consistent with the district’s vision and mission statements.
- The district’s vision statement asserts, “Keeping in mind that students come first, we will model best practice in instructional and service delivery, student access, community involvement, and accountability.” The focus on best practices for teaching contemporary American and regional poets is a “student first” issue.

- Furthermore, per the district's mission statement, I will be actively providing the campus community with “access to comprehensive quality educational opportunities that support student learning and student success.”
- I plan to visit the following well-known regional establishments, such as Beyond Baroque, Da Poetry Lounge, Re/Arte Centro Literario, and Sims Library of Poetry.

## **VI. Prospective Attendance at Conferences**

- TBA

## **VII. Proposed Timeline and Activities**

- **August:** Read articles and books from the bibliography.
- **September:** Attend Beyond Baroque, Da Poetry Lounge, Re/Arte Centro Literario, Sims Library of Poetry, and the Los Angeles Public Library.
- **October:** Meet and interview regional poets in Los Angeles and the surrounding community to provide first-hand accounts for primary source content. Visit the Los Angeles Public Library to learn about the Los Angeles Poet Laureate and the Los Angeles Poet Society. Research Latinx, LGBTQIA+, African-American, Asian American, and Native American poets.
- Attend conferences, local panels with poets, and poetry readings. Attend events at Cal State Los Angeles, Cal State Northridge, UCLA, and other universities.
- **November:** Create a module with lessons, discussions, assignments, and videos and post to Canvas Commons. Provide links to recent material and ensure appropriate copyright

where necessary. Create a module with lessons, discussions, assignments, and videos and post to Canvas Commons specifically for English 14: Poetry.

- **December:** Create a best practice lesson plan for the English department's Best Practices Workshop, create a presentation for Multicultural Day, and write the sabbatical report.

- **Bibliography**

Still accumulating material...

TBA