

Networking with ECC Biology 10 Instructors

I decided that one of the most pressing department priorities was determining which laboratory exercises needed to be newly developed or refreshed. With the help of Polly Parks, we held a series of Zoom meetings to collaborate on making these decisions with both full-time and part-time faculty who teach Biology 10.

The meetings served two important purposes. While reviewing each laboratory exercise's adaptability to online learning, we could also begin preparations for the upcoming course outline review. Once I decided I would develop lab modules for invertebrate and vertebrate animal studies, I found two professors who agreed to pilot the lab module: Professors Park and Mc Cleland.

As the meetings progressed and we needed a way to easily access content, it became evident that we required something that did not exist at the time. Thus, with the help of Gema Perez and Ryan Martinez, I created a department course shell. My sabbatical proposal focuses on the modules but how they would be edited, accessed for evaluation or use, and piloted had not been considered. A department course shell facilitates all of this and thus, it naturally became a component of my sabbatical work.

Department Course Shell

This Biology 10 course shell is available to 12 department faculty, both full-time and part-time, who will share and collaborate to develop lecture and laboratory course content and share material. This is also how all faculty teaching Biology 10 labs can access the newly created lab modules. At a time when faculty are isolated from their peers and feel burdened with the

Conclusion

The product of this sabbatical is something that will benefit both faculty and students. Through this project I practiced techniques in designing educational content with Canvas. I found new open education resources, met faculty I had not met before, and found ways to incorporate topics that awareness. Working on this sabbatical project helped me acquire skills and develop content that will enhance my students' learning for years to come. In my 18 years of teaching at ECC, this is the first sabbatical I have taken; now I wish that I had taken it sooner so I could have another opportunity to participate in such a valuable educational experience.

With Gratitude

Thank you to the committee members who reviewed and approved both proposals. I would also like to deeply thank all my El Camino College colleagues who helped me complete my sabbatical project, in particular: Professor Polly Parks, who played a key role in facilitating meetings with Dr. Darcie McClelland and Professor Nancy Freeman to identify what topics needed development; Dr. McClelland and Dr. Parks, who piloted the labs I created with their 80 students and provided valuable feedback; Mr. Ryan Martinez, Ms. Gema Perez, and Dr. Moses Wolfenstein, who each provided technical support, advice, and instruction in developing the various components essential to this project; and Dr. Teresa Palos, who agreed to serve as my sabbatical advisor and helped with editing this report.