**District Sabbatical Leave Proposal**

**Name: *Michelle Oja***

**Division(s): *Social and Behavioral Sciences***

**Department(s): *Psychology (sometimes Sociology)***

**Proposed Sabbatical Dates: *Spring 2021***

**Sabbatical Title: *Online Educational Resources in Behavioral Statistics***

**Proposal Submission Date: *January 10th, 2020***

**Abstract** - the abstract explains the purpose and rationale for the sabbatical.

The ABSTRACT should contain a brief summary of the material found under five of the headings in the body of the proposal: 1. Introduction and Background, 2. Objectives, 3. Activities, 4. Benefits to the District, and 5. Outcomes.

*1. Introduction and Background:*

*I am a tenured faculty member and division chair at Taft College who continues to learn about how colleges can run better, and how my teaching can be improved. Zero cost textbooks are one way that colleges are trying to help students succeed, and there is a need for a new behavioral statistics textbook at Taft College.*

*2. Objectives*

*I would like to develop an online textbook chapters for our PSYC 2200 courses in the hopes of completing a full textbook.*

*3. Activities*

*I would learn about OER and online textbooks, then develop one for PSYC 2200 with practice problems and keys.*

*4. Benefits to the District*

*This would benefit our students by providing a free, accessible textbook, our faculty by providing a new textbook that we all find to be valuable, our ZTC program by providing a ZTC mathematics option, and Taft College by showing our competence and passion to help students.*

*5. Outcomes*

*A portion of an online textbook or packet of material, with practice problems and answer keys, with the ultimate goal of completing a full textbook.*

1. **Introduction and Background**

This section should include your division, department, assignment or the courses you teach, your length of service for the District, and your professional interests. Indicate the length of time you plan for your sabbatical (Fall semester, Spring semester, full year) and the developments in your field that led to this proposal. You should also include the purposes of the leave, the category in which it falls and show how it meets the criteria.

* *Division(s): Social and Behavioral Sciences*
* *Department(s): Psychology (sometimes Sociology)*
* *Courses Taught:*
  + *I have taught most of the Psychology curriculum, including:*
    - *PSYC 1500: Introduction to Psychology*
    - *PSYC 2003: Child Growth & Development*
    - *PSYC 2030: Human Sexuality*
    - *PSYC 2033: Personal and Social Adjustment*
    - *PSYC 2038: Gender Studies (now deactivated)*
    - *PSYC 2080: Introduction to Lifespan Psychology*
    - *PSYC 2200: Elementary Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences*
    - *PSYC 2205: Introduction to Research Methods in the Social Sciences.*
  + *SOC 2110: Minority Group Relations*
* *Length of Service: 2012-present, so I’m on my 8th year at Taft College*
* *Professional Interests: I love learning about research on teaching, and applying it to my classrooms. I have been involved in the IEPI Partner Resource Teams to learn how other college work, as well as on an accreditation site visit team. I also enjoy advising student clubs, and am the advisor for SPECTRUM (TC’s gay/straight alliance) and the Social Science Research Group (which I developed after the Psychology Club was inactive for a few years). My professional research interests focus on stereotypes, particularly intersecting stereotypes based on race and gender.*
* *Sabbatical Length: One semester; I believe that Spring 2021 would be best so that I could keep the momentum and complete the project during summer 2021. Additionally, I would like to utilize Fall 2020 to help plan for the project, and attend OER workshops and conferences.*
* *Developments in the Field: As online and zero cost textbooks have become a driving force in California community colleges, I have attempted to find a textbook for PSYC 2200, the behavioral statistics courses. I have been unable to find a traditional nor an electronic textbook that fits our needs and is approved by all of the full-time faculty who teach the course. As this course is required in the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Administration of Justice (ADMJ) degree, there is a need. In order to solve the problem of the department finding a textbook that we all can agree on, and finding an online textbook for the ZTC ADMJ degree, I would like to develop our own online behavioral statistics textbook.*

Purposes of sabbaticals may include:

***(a) Scholarly or creative endeavors in your discipline;***

(b) Improvement of skills in your discipline;

(c) Retraining in a new discipline;

(d) Improvement of skills;

(e) Development of programs and curriculum

*The purpose of my sabbatical would be to begin developing an online behavioral statistics textbook that Taft College faculty could utilize in PSYC 2200. This online textbook could be used by any statistics course that follows the current C-ID of PSYC 2200 for California community colleges.*

*This fits the TC mission by providing an equitable learning environment defined by applied knowledge. Online textbooks provide an equitable learning environment by ensuring that all students have access to the textbooks. The textbook would also incorporate applying knowledge.*

*This is significantly related to my teaching of PSYC 2200, which has become a large portion of my load because of recent C-ID approvals and AB 705 requirements.*

*By researching and designing a textbook, I would improve my professional competence in teaching behavioral statistics through understanding the pedagogy of textbooks, as well as improving my understanding of statistics.*

Criteria: Your plan must significantly relate to the District mission, to your teaching, or other assignment and should improve your professional competence.

Categories of leave may include:

(a) Study at an accredited university or college

***(b) A special project or research problem planned with specific objectives***

(c) Work experience and study in an appropriate field

(d) Travel

(e) Curriculum Planning and Development

(f) Combinations of the above

2. **Objectives**

Broadly and in general terms, what do you expect to accomplish with your sabbatical project(s)?

(The following sentence fragments indicate the type of information usually included.)

*To develop portions of an online textbook for TC’s behavioral statistics course (PSYC 2200) with the ultimate goal of completing an online textbook or packet of material to be used as the primary textbook for PSYC 2200.*

1. **Activities**

Provide a timeline of the activities to be undertaken. Lay out your plan for the sabbatical in the time frame you are requesting. Describe in enough detail the work you intend to carry out, where it will take place, the various stages or parts of it, and the amount of time you expect to devote to different activities. List names and affiliations of people you will work with. List courses, workshops, etc. that you will take in some detail, including the school(s) proposed and the level of the coursework. For a travel sabbatical, provide a rough itinerary. (With permission from your supervising administrator you can change these specifics later.)

*The following timeline is based on completing the project in one semester.*

* *January:*
  + *Meet with David Wymore and Tabitha Raber, TC adjunct instructors who have developed online course packets and textbooks for ADMJ courses.*
  + *Outline Course Outline of Record or C-ID to organize content areas that should be included.*
  + *Start to develop practice problems (scenarios), with answer keys for each outlined area.*
  + *Attend state-wide OER (Online Educational Resources) conferences and webinars.*
  + *Network with behavioral statistics textbook instructors.*
* *February & March:*
  + *Start developing content in the areas identified in the Course Outline of Record or C-ID.*
  + *Continue to develop practice problems (scenarios), with answer keys for each outlined area.*
  + *Continue to attend state-wide OER (Online Educational Resources) conferences and webinars.*
  + *Continue to network with behavioral statistics textbook instructors.*
  + *Continue learning how to publish online textbooks.*
* *April: Continue all of the activities from February/March, as well as start sharing content areas with TC behavioral statistics faculty for review.*
* *May:* 
  + *Start finalizing content areas, and sharing with TC behavioral statistics faculty for review.*
  + *Start finalizing practice problems (scenarios), with answer keys. Pilot testing with students currently taking Behavioral Statistics courses could occur.*
* *Summer:* 
  + *Finalize content areas and practice problems.*
  + *Final review by TC behavioral statistics faculty.*
  + *Post material online or embedded in a Canvas shell.*
* *Fall 2021: Have sections of PSYC 2200 pilot test portions the online textbook.*

1. **Benefits to the District**

Relate the purpose of your sabbatical to your role at the District and the District mission. Explain how the sabbatical will advance the mission of the Districtspecifically in regards to the District's strategic plan.

*This project would help expand ZTC course offerings in the social sciences. New materials for PSYC 2200 would be developed. This fits the TC mission by providing an equitable learning environment defined by applied knowledge.*

*Not only would the online textbook help Taft College students access textbooks for free, and provide a much-needed new PSYC 2200 textbook that the teaching faculty find useful, but colleges across the state will likely be interested in utilizing the textbook. This would bring publicity of the professional competence of our tiny college and the Social and Behavioral Sciences division.*

*It is a reasonable assumption that students will be more likely to succeed in their courses, persist to the next semester, and graduate when they have access to their course materials; these are all goals of the current Strategic Action Plan. Additionally, FTES targets will likely be met when students can take this desired course with a free textbook option.*

1. **Outcomes**

Outcomes are the deliverable products of the leave.

What are the tangible things that you expect to produce and turn in to the AEER Committee. List the expected outcomes and state how they align with the District's strategic plan. These could include: a manuscript, software, works of art, compositions, annotated bibliographies, journals, transcripts from coursework, certificates of attendance, program listings, photographs, syllabus, curriculum, or classroom teaching materials.

*Portions of an online textbook or compiled packet of instructional content and practice problems (with answer keys for faculty) will be the deliverable product. Depending on the results of the exploratory stage, these materials may also be embedded in a Canvas shell that is easy for all faculty to import into their own Canvas shells.*

1. **Measurement of Outcomes**

Describe in detail how each outcome will be measured. In many cases, the "measurement" may be that a product such as a document or art work will be available.

*A printable packet or textbook that students can access electronically will be available.*

1. **References** (if appropriate for the expected outcomes of the sabbatical)

If the expected outcomes are such that references are necessary, please list those references along with contact information.

I have read and understood the contract language as it relates to Sabbatical leave and agree to abide by the contents therein.

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Faculty Member & Division Chair Date

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Potential Future Division Chair Date