

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Proposal
Curriculum Enhancement Project for Spring 2014
Submitted by Cari Lange
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November 2012

Instructor's Sabbatical Leave Status

Full-time hire date: August 2007

Part-time district hire date: May 2005

Previous Sabbaticals: 0

Background of Sabbatical Project

laboratory curriculum and forensic science curriculum
interdisciplinary venture with the Criminal Justice Department. Since being
been able to develop the initial curriculum and content for three new courses
of a new laboratory facility, order and secure funding for basic equipment
doubled the existing osteological and fossil cast collection of Ventura College
the refinement and enhancement of these curriculum

Biological Anthropology Laboratory (ANTH V01L) was offered in the
ever at Ventura College in the Spring 2008 semester. DC 0.DC 0.(n)18e

While the development and expansion of the Biological Anthropology and Forensic Science programs and facilities has seen great progress in the last six years, there are still areas of deficiency. Principally, there is a large disconnect between existing laboratory manuals and support materials and what can actually be done in our existing lab facility and utilizing our particular collection of cast materials, supplies, and equipment. There currently is no laboratory manual in publication for either biological anthropology or forensic science that is fully compatible with our programs. Most existing lab manuals include superfluous activities and/or activities that simply are infeasible given our facility and materials.

The purpose of my sabbatical leave is to develop two laboratory manuals; one for use in Biological Anthropology Lab and the other in Introduction to Forensic Science Lab. These projects will continue to fulfill my ultimate goal at Ventura College of developing and continually strengthening Biological Anthropology and Forensic Science offerings. These two original laboratory manuals and workbooks will be specifically designed to best utilize the facilities, cast collection, and equipment at Ventura College, to provide a cost effective resource for students, and to better appeal to the learning modalities of our student population. Furthermore, it will provide me the opportunity to improve

classes. In addition, many of these activities can be adapted for use in other disciplines (Criminal Investigation in the Criminal Justice program for instance) at Ventura College as well as anticipated additions of forensics classes in the future. By strengthening the curriculum in forensic science, Ventura College will potentially attract students from throughout the district to this truly unique career track educational opportunity.

Value of Sabbatical Project to Ventura College Students

My intended project of developing two laboratory manuals will have a direct, tangible, benefit to Ventura College students.

Our students are negatively impacted by the fact that there are not fully compatible laboratory manuals on the market for either Biological Anthropology or Forensic Science classes taught at Ventura College. Using one of the currently published lab manuals for these courses creates several issues that impact students and negatively affect learning: ineffective use of our existing cast collection, outdated core lessons, an unjustified number of superfluous activities, necessary modification of curriculum to match published lab activities, piecemealed activities lacking a cohesive theme and voice, lesson explanations written at a level unsuitable for our student population, and steep price point for the majority of current lab manuals in these fields.

x Fully Utilize Ventura College's Existing Fossil Cast Collection, Materials, and Equipment

It is simple fact that no one mass produced laboratory manual can fully utilize any existing laboratory's particular collection of cast materials, supplies, and equipment. It is assumed that products will be purchased to match the published activities and any "extra" casts, materials, and equipment that may already exist in a college's collection are unnecessary or unimportant. It is my feeling that this is a great disservice to the program and to students. Over many decades, Ventura College's Anthropology program has amassed a wonderfully varied collection of important fossil casts. It is one of the finest collections I have ever seen at any college or university. When these casts are not worked into laboratory activities students are losing out on the very learning experience that these pieces were purchased for. Compiling a collection of activities designed around Ventura College's current collection will greatly enhance the overall learning experience and expand knowledge by introducing students to a muchts

The most widely used laboratory manual in Biological Anthropology Laboratory courses, Exploring Physical Anthropology: A Lab Manual and Workbook by Walker-Pacheco, retails for \$59.95. According to the publisher, this is the most widely adopted lab manual for Biological/Physical Anthropology due to its relatively low price point compared to the other standard lab manuals. However, the publisher highly recommends that this manual be used in conjunction with The Photographic Atlas for Physical Anthropology. In fact, the workbook is lacking in photographic details that facilitate student learning, and the secondary book is of great benefit. The abbreviated edition of the photo atlas retails for \$38.95 and the full edition for \$54.95. That puts this option between \$98.90 and \$114.90.
<http://www.morton-pub.com/productdetails.cfm?PC=135> (Retrieved 10/27/12).

The other popular adoption choice, D. France's Lab Manual and Workbook for Physical Anthropology, has a list price of \$113.95, but does not require a supplement text.