

Nathan Cole
SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSAL
DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING ARTS

the Theatre and Performing Arts in a COVID

INSTRUCTOR SABBATICAL LEAVE STATUS

FULLTIME HIRE DATE August 05, 2013
PREVIOUS SABBATICALS:

BACKGROUND

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities in Theatre and the Department of Performing Arts at Ventura College were moved to remote learning and performance activities. Although I feel my colleagues and I have been innovative with our approaches to creating engaging learning environments in both Zoom and Canvas, along with producing performance opportunities for our students using virtual technologies, my concern is how the coronavirus pandemic may affect the future of education and my discipline. I feel it is important to update my online teaching skills by learning the latest technologies and to explore the many possibilities to create more innovative online classrooms and virtual performance space.

To help with the transition to remote learning for the entire institution, I served as an instructional designer with grading and mentoring for the Online Teacher Training Course taught over the summer. Over the summer and this past fall, I mentored seven full and part-time faculty and continue working with some to prepare for the spring semester. In addition, I began the Peer Online Course Review (POCR) training offered through the OEI and @ONE next week because I want to be of service to my colleagues and the institution as we forge ahead through the effects of COVID-19 and how it is redefining education and the lives of our students.

I am currently applying to the Masters of eLearning program at Cal State East Bay and will register for one to two courses during the Fall 2021 semester. During the sabbatical, I plan to take six to nine units to get closer to completing the degree.

For information about the degree, please visit <https://www.ce.csueastbay.edu/ce/programs/elearning/>

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

For the past few years I contemplated entering a masters and doctorate program for instructional design. I want to take the appropriate time to ensure my discipline a

creating everything in a remote format is extremely challenging and time consuming. By allowing myself a semester to focus on finding but best practices in online pedagogy and to research and investigate new platforms and technologies, I will be able to approach what we face from a proactive mindset. This will allow me to return to the college with a stronger approach to better navigate an unknown future and the effects of COVID.