

Ventura College Sabbatical Leave Project – Fall 2020

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[SA](#)) unless otherwise noted. The manual can be printed or shared locally using OneDrive, and is available online, using Canvas or [LibreText](#). Content remains current, inclusive, and meets our student's diverse needs.

- d) The lab manual has been shared via OneDrive with local faculty and can be accessed on Canvas Commons and LibreText by anyone teaching an introductory physical geology lab course.

III. IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT:

a) Impacts of the project to Students

Most students need a physical science lab requirement to graduate and the expansion to hybrid and online geology labs provided additional physical science lab opportunities for those students who want to earn a completely online degree. Additionally, thanks to CARES funds we were also able to develop free lab kits which complement the manual. These kits provide students access to additional materials necessary for lab, including rock and mineral specimens. The time students spend outside of class appears more productive, and they are better able to identify the various rocks and minerals samples. Overall, students have responded positively to our no-cost OER and lab kits.

b) Impacts of the project to Faculty and Geoscience Department

The manual, and lab kits, provide consistency across lab sections, which has improved overall student success and retention. Having this resource available during the pandemic has been incredibly helpful, and with access both through OneDrive and online (Canvas and LibreText), it is being used in districts outside of VCCCD, including within LACCCD and throughout the state.

c) Impacts of the project to VCCCD and Ventura College

With a no-cost lab manual, and free lab kits, students appear more likely to register, and remain enrolled, in the geology labs. Although, the pandemic forced expansion to hybrid and online geology labs, the plan was always to move in this direction. The Geology Program will continue to offer hybrid labs and hopes to eventually provide fully online labs for those students earning online degrees.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROJECT:

GEOS: A Physical Geology Lab Manual for California Community Colleges will continue to be updated to include better imagery, and reflect new research and information, including California specific content and activities. Lastly, the Geology Program will need to consider handling the complicated logistics of providing kits to non-local students.