

Dillon – Sabbatical Report

**What was accomplished:**

My sabbatical project for Spring 2023 piggybacked off a previous sabbatical project. *Blueprint for College and Career Success*, an open educational resource college success textbook, was originally published in 2017. The text strived to identify a tone matching a one-on-one conversation rather than someone talking at students. It offered essays from a variety of authors mixed with traditional study skills and career decision making content. The text was used in over 40 colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada and won two awards.

The Spring 2023 sabbatical project set out to be a revision – needed because the post pandemic experience of attending college has changed drastically, and for relevancy, recency, and to be more equity minded.

As I began the revision work, I watched a conference session presented by a team in Oregon who had translated the original text into Spanish. The feedback from faculty using the Spanish version of the text was positive but also included questions about why a textbook authored and curated by a middle-class white male was being used for underrepresented students whose first language was Spanish. It had a massive impact on me, and I decided it was best to gut the revision entirely and start from scratch, with a new focus on identifying relevant open content from underrepresented and diverse authors.

Although the comparative amount of work was tremendously greater with the new direction, I am proud of the new creation. I added the word modern in the title to distinguish it from the first text – [Modern Blueprint for College and Career Success](#) - the link is included here.

**Implications for me:**

Some faculty peer review and student reviews have been completed. Others are in progress and ongoing. I am curating the feedback and making corrections and improvements. I am pleased to be able to use the new text in the class I am teaching and recommend it to students seeking counseling. Early feedback is positive and I am humbled by the reception. Other instructors and colleges are trying it out. I am committed to maintenance and improvements for a few years and then hope to identify a successor.

**Implications for the discipline:**

The new text matches Grossmont College's new course outline for the COUN 120 course (College and Career Success). The new course outline includes modern equity language and content. Some of the open content utilized and remixed is from counseling faculty at College of the Canyons. I am pleased that this collaborative open educational resource and zero textbook cost text is available for California Community College counseling and personal growth courses across the state and beyond.

**Contribution to the Educational Goals of the District:**

*Modern Blueprint for Success in College and Career* matches Grossmont College's vision, mission, and values. The textbook is inclusive, student-centered, anti-racist, and equity focused. Chapters titled "Introduction to Understanding Civility and Cultural Competence", "Appreciation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion", and "Studying at a Predominately White Institution" are examples reflective of this. The text is intended for a diverse student audience. The text recognizes and values diversity, and it supports students pursuing the academic and career goals.

I am proud to share this resource with students and colleagues and I appreciate the opportunity afforded to me to create it. It has been some of the most rewarding work I have completed in my academic career.