**Abstracts of 2024-2025 Sabbatical Projects for the Chancellor and Governing Board
Approved by the District Sabbatical Leave Committee, January 2024**

Hanaa Alkassas – OER for Arabic that promotes inclusion, diversity, equity, social justice and anti-racism.

My proposed sabbatical project is to create an Open Educational Arabic Resource for Arabic 220 (Arabic III). This will promote our student retention and support to close the equity gap at Cuyamaca College. My proposed sabbatical project will require research in current and past issues affecting students from different backgrounds in learning Arabic language and culture. This will allow me to be current in the social environment affecting the Arab community and be better prepared for teaching. During my sabbatical, I will create an Open Educational Resource (OER) that will replace the expensive commercial textbook for Arabic 220. This OER will include different interactive activities (audios, videos), and different authentic materials to enhance the four language learning skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking). There will be grammar, writing, reading, culture, and assessment sections with interactive activities, writing prompts, reading passages, etc. The outcome will be an OER that will save students hundreds of dollars. This OER will include content to promote inclusion, diversity, equity, and anti-racism. Moreover, it will be available for any instructors teaching Arabic 220 at Cuyamaca College and other community colleges. This project will not only benefit students attending Cuyamaca College, but other students attending other community colleges. The World Languages Department is currently working on increasing the use of OER in all their programs. This project will contribute to the creation of a Zero Textbook Cost Certificate Program in Arabic. The creation of this resource will also contribute to the Quality Focus Essay in the Accreditation report that includes a plan to increase the use of OER across campus.

Thea Bachmann – Integrating Librarianship and English Instruction for Student Success

The overachieving objective of my sabbatical is to bridge the realms of English instruction and library and information science. The proposed sabbatical activity entails pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science (MLS) degree at San Jose State University's School of Information. By undertaking this interdisciplinary approach, the objective is to become a more effective and well-rounded educator, thereby benefiting students. The potential benefits for students encompass enhanced research skills and a strengthened commitment to information literacy. Beyond the classroom, the acquisition of an MLIS will yield numerous benefits for Grossmont College, in terms of enriched academic support and increased research collaboration. Furthermore, the local community stands to gain from this endeavor, with improved access to information and promotion of lifelong learning. The timeline for this sabbatical spans from August 2024 to December 2024. Evidence provided of the sabbatical completion will be course transcripts, a detailed report and oral presentations.

Philip Blanco – Space for Everyone! Engineering Inclusive Aerospace labs, from the ground up

Grossmont is ramping up its STEM programs, introducing a new STEM Center, with MESA support program and Director. While Cuyamaca's Engineering is a jewel in the crown of our District's offerings, Grossmont can do more to recruit and support the next generation of engineering professionals.

Having already created two courses that articulate to 4-year engineering programs, I shall design a set of 6-8 engaging, inclusive lab activities with the ultimate goal of building San Diego's first community college Aerospace Engineering course (credit and/or noncredit) around them. I shall leverage mostly existing resources, e.g. our Drone Program and Physics lab equipment.

These labs can inspire students from all backgrounds to consider aerospace careers, which have strong roots – and demand - in the region. They can also be incorporated into our existing Physics and Physical Science courses, along with inclusive STEM lab best practices I will learn on the way.

Lindy Brazil – Best Practices for Building a Sound Study Abroad Program

Studying abroad is an enriching, transformative experience. However, our district, though large and robust, lacks a study abroad program. Currently, to study abroad, our Grossmont and Cuyamaca students must apply for a program outside our region or wait until they transfer to a university, which often impacts their course requirements, delays graduation, and ultimately costs them more money. If granted a sabbatical, I will research and gather information about successful community college study abroad programs, such as those at Pasadena City, Citrus, and Santa Monica Colleges. By communicating with the directors of study abroad programs and managing companies, such as AIFS, I will gather a host of "best practices" to share with the administrations at my college, in our district, and, if necessary, within our region, aspiring to move us in the right direction to offer a financially viable and sound study abroad program for our San Diego students.

Michelle Campuzano – Supporting Indigenous Students from a Counseling Services Perspective

This project will focus on serving and supporting Indigenous students from a Counseling Services perspective. College and Counseling data will be reviewed to examine equity gaps, including but not limited to student enrollment, persistence, and completion, and within Counseling Services. I will conduct student surveys to gain a better understanding of our Indigenous students, their needs, and college experience to enhance the delivery of Counseling Services. This project will also include reviewing culturally relevant resources and researching best practices for supporting Indigenous students in higher education. Data and research findings will be compiled into a resource and recommendations guide for counselors. Expected benefits include increasing access to Counseling Services for Indigenous students and creating more equity-minded practices and culturally responsive counseling sessions.

Nadra Farina-Hess – Digital Student Newspaper Archive

Creating a digital archive of Grossmont college's student newspapers will enhance my expertise in digital preservation. I plan to digitize all editions of Grossmont college's student newspapers. The process includes organizing, scanning, cataloging the newspapers and creating an online archive. Student, faculty, and community access to primary sources that document the college's history is the desired outcome. The archive will be available for use as teaching materials and collaboration between the library and faculty members seeking methods to infuse the use of local primary resources into their classroom will be made. The archive will ensure that our history is preserved for future generations of students to learn from and appreciate. The archive will provide historical preservation and keyword access to the college newspapers. It will serve as a valuable and enduring resource that benefits multiple stakeholders and fosters a deeper connection to the college's history and culture.

Josue Franco – Political Science Research Methods OER Textbook, Polimetrics OER Workbook, and Civil Grand Juries Database

The purpose of my sabbatical is to update Introduction to Political Science Research Methods OER textbook, which I co-authored in 2019, update Polimetrics OER workbook, which I authored in 2021, and continue my research on California counties' civil grand juries, which has been ongoing since 2020. Outcomes include an updated OER textbook that includes new chapters on geographic information systems, survey research, and comparative historical analysis; an updated workbook that expands the 11 model chapters; and a publicly accessible database of California's 58 county civil grand juries' 2023-2024 reports' findings, recommendations, and local government responses. I will submit an updated textbook and workbook, and a database and conference paper to demonstrate achievement of outcomes. The expected benefits for students include new OER, a database of civil grand jury that can be used by students and community to hold local governments accountable, and growth of the college's Civil Grand Jury Lab.

Laurie Furry- Transitional Kindergarten Teachers – Meeting Their Needs

The purpose of this project is to identify the skills, support and teaching strategies needed by Transitional Kindergarten teachers. What are their struggles and challenges? How do they want this information delivered? How can we serve them and educate our typical student population about this career opportunity at the same time?

A survey and interviews will be conducted across the state to determine the answers to these questions. Data will be compiled and reported. Recommendations for innovative teaching formats will be proposed based on their responses.

Our child development administration, faculty and I will be able to use the data report to modify current instruction or create new opportunities for both Transitional Kindergarten teachers and our child development students.

Evolution based student-centered needs benefits me, our students, and our institution.

Manuel Mancillas-Gomez- GCCCD Mountain Empire Satellite Site Feasibility Study

The primary purpose of the sabbatical leave is to research and create a feasibility study of a GCCCD satellite site in the [Mountain Empire region of San Diego East County](#). Demographic data will be collected from the [Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD](#)) to determine overall social condition indicators, student enrollment and graduation trends. A secondary focus will be on student enrollment from the Tecate municipality in México by collecting demographic metrics and contacting institutional partners to explore and pilot [AB 91 (Álvarez)](#), which will allow residents from 45 miles south of the border to attend regional community colleges without non-resident charges. The primary outcome of the leave is to create the feasibility study report, including metrics and qualitative data, developmental methodologies, and prospective results; the primary goal of the project is to establish the GCCCD satellite site; the potential projected outcome is student enrollment growth. The primary beneficiary of the project is the Mountain Empire community in achieving their goals of expanded educational services. The projected sabbatical leave would be at 50% for the academic year 24-25 and a 50% load teaching English as a Second Language classes in Mountain Empire.

Samantha Prado – Understanding Critical Race Theory: GCCCD CRT Resource Repository

This sabbatical project focuses on Critical Race Theory (CRT), a theoretical framework which had origins in the field of law and has now made its way into the world of education. CRT has five main tenets which pertain to matters of social justice: 1) centers race and racism at the core of discussion, 2) challenges hegemonic truths and ideologies, 3) commits to social justice and dismantling racism, 4) centers on experiential knowledge of the oppressed, and 5) proposes an interdisciplinary context. Given the growing criticism against CRT in education and state-wide policies requiring students to take Ethnic Studies courses prior to college graduation, I plan to develop a resource repository in a Grossmont-Cuyamaca Canvas container where I will include annotated bibliographies, overviews, abstracts, and articles about the origin of CRT, the application of CRT in various fields, CRT methodologies, and other relevant information. This resource repository will include data from CRTs' early stages in the 1970s, to its application in education stemming from the 1980s, up until the current year. This resource repository would be made available by the Sabbatical Committee to the Grossmont College campus community and to the Grossmont-Cuyamaca College District. In addition to the repository, I will develop an instructor guide on how to incorporate CRT in the STEM, Humanities, and Social/Behavioral Sciences classrooms.