

Application for Professional Leave 2004- 2005

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A

Description of Project

In my current position as Teaching and Learning Center Coordinator, I routinely work with instructors involved in the Distance Learning process. One of the difficulties we routinely encounter is the inability to find adequate online tools to suit the needs of our instructors. If it is not something that that college currently owns or can afford, I often resort to finding free shareware programs that can be adapted for the instructor's purposes. This has always been a challenge particularly when most applications of merit come with a price tag.

Luckily, with continued innovations in web applications and technology, it is now possible for anyone to develop web based programs and applications. Web programming languages like PHP and ASP.Net along with technologies like Macromedia's Flash allows anyone with the right skills to create useful, cutting edge application for use on the web.

It is my intention to acquire skills in at least one web programming language and the multimedia technology Flash so that I may develop custom applications for use in Distance learning.

Objectives:

- Identify most flexible web based programming language
- Explore custom web based distance learning applications developed by other institutions
- Acquire a working knowledge of the above identified programming language
- Seek training in Flash and its uses in creating web applications

Timeline:

This plan will be implemented over the course of one quarter, Winter quarter 2005.

Demonstration of Achievement:

Achievement and success of this project will be demonstrated in the creation of a web based distance learning application for use in the district.

Additional Financial Support

As part of this project I will be attending either the League for Innovation or Syllabus conference to explore custom web based distance-learning applications developed by other institutions. I will be applying for a district faculty development grant to aid in expenses related to conference attendance. Courses not covered by my education benefit at the Seattle Community Colleges will be paid for out of my own pocket.

B

Benefit Students, Instructional Program, College and Community

With the exception of the help desk, I am one of few people on campus whose job is to help faculty and staff make the best use of technology. The knowledge and skills that I am able to acquire during this project will allow me to increase the level of assistance I am able to offer including the development of original web based applications.

This project will allow:

- the SSCC Teaching and Learning Center to be more effective in its mission to address the educational technology needs of faculty and staff,
- faculty engaged in Distance Learning to offer more interactively to their students thus increasing the quality of the Distance Learning education they offer

Benefit Professional/Personal Development for Instructor

This project is of extreme importance to my continued professional development. It will allow me to:

- develop my current skills in such a way that I can apply my creativity to my computing skills and create my own applications,
- acquire skills that are in high demand giving me another subject that I could potentially teach at the community college
- pursue a professional interests of mine, the development of web based distance learning applications

C

Status

I am a tenured faculty member in good standing and have been working at South Seattle Community College since Fall of 1998.

Respectively submitted


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