

<b>CCC Board of Education – Topic Summary</b>	
Topic:	Sabbatical Report Abstracts
Date:	March 18, 2026
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Division/Department:	Instruction & Student Services Sabbatical Committee
Issue Before the Board:	Informational Report on Sabbatical Activities

**REASON FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:**

The Board annually reviews the Sabbatical Abstracts and hears reports from instructors on their sabbatical activities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Nora Brodnicki (Art) and Amanda Coffey (English) Co-Chair the Sabbatical Committee and will present abstracts from the 2024-25 faculty sabbaticals.

Greg Bostrom and Tamera Vanderwerf will present sabbatical projects.

**Sabbatical Abstracts for Academic Year 2024-2025****Greg Bostrom, Science, one term**

During my sabbatical I began work on a popular science book that explains interesting phenomena encountered in nature using physics. I wrote a preface, outline, and my first chapter that describes the physics of wind—including the sound it makes. I improved my ability to convey technical concepts using descriptive wording and analogy by completing a four-week nature-writing course. My research and writings will enhance my current classes through natural examples and outdoor activities. Developing a transferable Conceptual Physics course built around this work is a long-term goal of the project.

**Michael Farrell, Engineering, two terms**

My sabbatical focused on creating an inclusive and equitable environment for students and faculty. I researched what helps under-represented students succeed in engineering. I found that students do best when they have a sense of belonging and that faculty are responsible for creating a classroom environment where students can “show up as their whole self” (Scott, 2023a). I learned things to do in my classroom and course materials to promote and foster trust and belonging with my students. I am also exploring ways to create belonging and support faculty in collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning.

**Kerrie Hughes, Communications, two terms**

During my sabbatical, I developed a comprehensive framework to enhance Study Abroad Programs at Clackamas Community College, aligned with national best practices and institutional priorities. I expanded regional partnerships, researched program models, and assessed the development of a credit-bearing course to support academic integration. These efforts increase student access to high-impact, culturally immersive experiences while promoting academic rigor, safety, and equity. This work strengthens CCC's institutional capacity, supports long-term program growth, and advances the college's strategic goals in student success, curricular innovation, and global engagement.

**Tamera Vanderwerf, Nursing, full year**

My sabbatical had three purposes. The first was to create pediatric content for nursing students in support of NRS 110 program learning outcomes in health promotion. The second goal was to serve food insecure families and promote student discussion of the impact of personal bias, and social determinates of health on patient health and wellness. Finally, I completed simulation training to support nursing program accreditation and faculty collaboration for realistic, evidence-based clinical scenarios. Curriculum that guides students to recognize the importance of holistic nursing care positively impacts the CCC community, and aligns with CCC's values of equity, community, and belonging.

**Matthew Warren, English, two terms**

My sabbatical focused on redesigning book publishing courses to make the project-based learning experience of publishing the annual *Clackamas Literary Review (CLR)* more meaningful for students, and on reimagining the publishing program to make it more manageable and sustainable. I researched and read texts and other resources, interviewed colleagues at peer institutions, developed three new courses, created dozens of activities and resources for students and faculty, redesigned the *CLR's* public-facing platforms, launched marketing efforts, and developed new publishing opportunities for students. This work will benefit students and the College as we continue to publish our award-winning and internationally-read literary journal.