Collin County Community College District
APPLICATION FOR SABBATICAL LEAVE

Instructions

Please complete this application by responding to **all** items. Attach requested documentation (in the order requested) and secure the appropriate signatures prior to submitting the application to the chair of the Sabbatical Leave Committee. **Please submit the original and 10 copies.**

Name ___Sharon Hirschy___   **CWID** __1107-26-114__

Title __Professor, Child Development and Education__   **Division** ___Social Science

Have you ever been granted a sabbatical? No__ If yes: Date: _____
Please provide a brief description of your *previous* sabbatical project:

Sabbatical Leave Period Being Requested

Dates: **Beginning Date** ___August, 2014___   **Ending Date** ___December, 2014___

Length: [X] One semester   [ ] Two semesters [ ] Other _____

Applicant's Agreement

ABSTRACT
Please give a summary description of the project and its significance in a language that can be readily understood by persons in areas of expertise other than your own. PLEASE DO NOT EXCEED SPACE PROVIDED BELOW.

The sabbatical project will have 3 parts: research; development of an article, strategic plan and trainer; and the development of The Texas Center for Early Childhood Technology.

Phase 1: Research will be conducted in the following areas:

1. Effective and appropriate classroom technologies for teaching adults and young children

2. How technology impacts adults and their learning

3. How technology impacts young children's learning and development

4. Successful strategies for training classroom teachers and college faculty in the use of technology in the classroom

5. Best practices in using technology with young children

Phase 2: A professional article based on the research will be developed and submitted to a peer- reviewed journal. A strategic plan on the implementation of training for Collin Faculty on the use of mobile and internet technologies in the classroom will be developed and presented to the Technology committee. A train-the - trainer will be developed to train early childhood teachers on the appropriate use of technology in the classroom.

Phase 3: Funding sources for the development of The Texas Center for Early Childhood A website will be developed providing resources including video tutorials, links and other information on the use of technology with young children for early childhood teachers, trainers and college faculty in early childhood, and administrators.

Using Technology in Education with Adult and Early Childhood Learners
Sabbatical Project Proposal, 2014

The impact of technology on child and adult learning is a topic that has been a major area of interest for several years. Since 2003 I have authored or co-authored five professional articles on the use of technology in education. During 2010-2011 I completed a study grant entitled, *The Effects of Media and Technology on Children*. Since 2002 I have presented at over 20 local, state, and national conferences and workshops on the use of technology in the classroom. I have served since 2010 as an Advisory Board Member for the National Association for the Education of Young Children Technology Forum. I have also served for several years on the Collin College Online Advisory Board and Faculty Technology Committee. I have a committed interest in this area and would like to not only further my study but also create artifacts that will provide others with the information.

This project would explore technology in education by examining and developing materials regarding its use by adult educators, including college faculty and effective practices of technology use in early childhood classrooms.

Objectives

1. The project will provide Collin College with a strategic plan on the implementation of training for Collin faculty on the use of mobile and Internet technologies in the classroom.
2. The project will advance the field of early childhood teacher training through the development of a Train-the Trainer and professional article on technology in the Early Childhood classroom..
3. The project will provide Texas with leadership and guidance from Collin College in effective use of technology in the early childhood classroom.

Methodology:

The sabbatical project will have 3 parts: research; development of an article, strategic plan and trainer; and the development of The Texas Center for Early Childhood Technology.

Phase 1: Research will be conducted in the following areas and an annotated bibliography developed:

1. Effective and appropriate classroom technologies for teaching adults and young children

2. How technology impacts adults and their learning

3. How technology impacts young children's learning and development

4. Successful strategies for training classroom teachers and college faculty in the use of technology in the classroom

5. Best practices in using technology with young children

Phase 2: A professional article based on the research will be developed and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. A strategic plan on the implementation of training for Collin Faculty on the use of mobile and Internet technologies in the classroom will be developed and presented to the Technology committee. This plan will include an annotated bibliography of research on effective integration of technology into higher education classrooms, goals for the coming year and a plan for encouraging the implementation of additional technology into Collin classrooms as well as a plan on how to successfully solicit and train Collin faculty in mobile and internet technology use in the classroom. A train-the -trainer will be developed for early childhood to train early childhood teachers on the appropriate use of technology in the classroom.

Phase 3: Funding sources for the development of The Texas Early Childhood Center for Technology will be identified and approached. A website for the Center will be developed providing resources including video tutorials, links and other information on the use of technology with young children for early childhood teachers, trainers and college faculty in early childhood, and administrators.

Timeline: September:

- Conduct literature review of research.
- Develop annotated bibliography and article for publication

- Develop strategic plan for Collin College on training faculty and integrating mobile and internet technologies into the classroom
- Identify funding sources and develop proposals to support a Texas Early Childhood Center for Technology

October:
- Present strategic plan for integrating technology in Collin College classrooms
- Develop Train the Trainer for early childhood professionals on integrating technology into the early childhood classroom
- Conduct a train the trainer workshop and revise materials based on feedback and place materials on website.

November/December
- Develop website for the Texas Early Childhood Center for Technology
- Continue to secure funding sources for the Center

Rationale and Significance

Surveys indicate that 88% of childcare programs are not using Internet and other technologies, even though research indicates many educational benefits in the use of technology in the early childhood classroom. The primary reason that technology is not used in the classroom has been identified as a lack of training in this area. The National Association for the Education of Young Children, from which the Collin College Child Development and Education program has received national certification, stated in a position statement in 2012, "Early childhood educators need available, affordable, and accessible professional development opportunities..."

The Collin College Child Development and Education Advisory Board, consisting of community professionals in child care, public schools, and higher education, recognized the need for teachers trained in the use of technology with children and requested a course which was developed and accepted by the C.A.B. in 2011 and has been successfully taught each semester since implementation. A Perkins grant based on the need for more technology instruction in early childhood, was also successfully developed for 2013. The Perkins administrators stated that the outcome of this grant was of particular interest to them..

There is no other program in the state of Texas currently offering resources and training to Early Childhood professionals in the use of technology beyond the public school system. An informal needs assessment with the Collin College Child Development and Education Advisory Board members and other professionals indicate a need. Collin College can provide a centralized location for information and materials. This plan and the research to develop it can provide new technologies for early childhood courses as well as improve the delivery of our current technology in education course.

A strategic plan on training faculty in the integration of mobile and internet technologies in the classroom would assist administrators and faculty in adopting their use to enhance learning in the classroom. Public schools in Texas have embraced the use of mobile and Internet technologies in the education of students. Yet when these same students attend Collin College, few of their professors use such technology and most do not allow students to use technology in the classroom—something they were allowed in public school.

Few college faculty members have the skills and information to effectively integrate the technology. Due to demands of courses, few are able or willing to develop these skills. An annotated bibliography focusing on why technology integration in higher education can improve learning outcomes and on how it has been successfully integrated into institutions of higher education can serve as a foundation for the development of a plan to not only develop training and support for the integration but also provide ideas on how to encourage faculty to take advantage of the resources. This will provide for the development of research-based strategies that can eventually result in the improvement of student learning outcomes

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