Michele Betancourt

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An experienced classroom educator, online course developer, and technology and educational resources specialist who readily bridges technical and educational domains to advance institutional goals.

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Wide-ranging professional experience utilizing technology in the classroom and through distance education, including online instruction and course design.
- Extensive experience with learner assessment, and faculty development training.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills, ability to deliver technology training efficiently and effectively
- Confident, able, and happy to work independently or as part of a design / training team
- Effective communicator, leader, and problem solver who builds teamwork and possesses the initiative to exceed program and/or departmental goals
- An enthusiastic, creative, and passionate educator, mentor and faculty trainer who believes that all students can thrive in a learning environment that is stimulating, comforting and appropriate to their unique talents and abilities.

HIGHLIGHTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

WHARTON COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE, Wharton, TX   **August 2012 - Present**

Director of Distance Education

- Direct the planning, staff, and operations of the Distance Learning Program.
- Identify new distance and instructional learning technologies and evaluates the appropriateness for WCJC use.
- Direct college activities to export and import distance education courses through collaborative initiatives, such as the Virtual College of Texas and coordinates appropriate faculty and student support services.
- Supervise Distance Education staff.
- Work collaboratively with other departments to support Distance Education goals and objectives.

Highlighted Achievements

- Developed and implemented process for reviewing all online and hybrid courses with respect to best practices.

Title V Educational Technologist (August 2012 – February 2013)

- Work with faculty to review and revise courses to be taught online
- Assist in the development of plans for the institutionalization of new practices and improvements for the distance education program
- Develop and offer faculty training to facilitate the implementation of the Title V project implementation.

Highlighted Achievements

- Developed and conducted multiple faculty workshops to train faculty on a variety of instructional technologies and enhance online courses including:
    - Best Practices for Online Instruction
    - Soft Chalk – Basics
    - Soft Chalk Advanced
    - Established an Online Faculty Resources section in Blackboard as a repository of information for faculty on topics such as:

- Best Practices
- Pedagogy
- Legal Issues in online education
- Incorporating Web 2.0 tools in the classroom
- Instructional Technologies in the face to face and hybrid classroom

COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND, Texas City, TX   1997 – Present

Professor of Government (1997 – Present)
- Tenured social science faculty member with primary teaching responsibilities in Government.
- Facilitate 14 sections annually (approximately 30 students each) utilizing multiple formats including web enhanced, hybrid, internet, dual credit and compact sections.
- Utilize multiple assessments in compliance with college and state requirements to inform instruction.
- Use innovative and collaborative methods and materials to produce effective learning experiences.

Highlighted Achievements
- Exemplary Online Course Award, 2011
- Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology presented at the 21st International Conference on College Teaching and Learning 2010
- Merlot Elixir Collaborative Case Study Project - Student Engagement and Technology Theme. "Netting the Digital Natives" 2008

Academic Coordinator, Dual Credit (2009 - 2012)

- Provide Leadership, coordination and administration of College of the Mainland's high school dual credit programs
- Asses needs of the ISD's and coordinate course work and services in response.
- Conduct annual faculty observations to ensure quality and effectiveness of the college curriculum.

Highlighted Achievements
- Contributed to a significant increase in dual credit student population.
- Developed and implemented "Smart Start," an orientation workshop to transition students into the rigors of college work.
- Developed and delivered faculty workshops to assist faculty with some of the unique challenges of working with dual credit populations.
- Provide instructional and administration leadership for the after-school mentoring program, during one semester program nearly doubled in size from 50 to 100 served. The overarching goal of the program is to assist all students
- Developed and distributed informational materials concerning the dual credit materials.
- Coordinated with COM's Advising office to train high school counselors advising dual credit students.

Chair, Online Course Review Committee (2008 - 2012)
- Develop and implement process for reviewing all online and hybrid courses with respect to best practices.
- Collaborate with other members of the Distance Education Executive Committee to revise assessment rubric as necessary
- Represent Distance Education on the College's Institutional Effectiveness Council.

Highlighted Achievements
- Created a peer review process that provides constructive feedback to faculty to enhance online course instruction.
- Established a comprehensive process for development, review and recognition of online courses at College of the Mainland.
- Developed and conducted multiple faculty workshops to assist faculty in meeting course review assessment criteria.
- Served as Online Faculty Mentor, providing one-on- one assistance to faculty developing online courses - Every individual who received the Exemplary Online Course Award was mentored by me.

Co-Chair, Technology and Educational Resources Committee (2009 - 2012)

- Responsible for the study and analysis of campus technology and educational resources and making recommendations to the Planning Council for improvement in these areas.
- Develop and maintain the comprehensive technology plan for the college. .   The Technology Plan is intended to improve how technology is used for instruction, management, assessment, and communication at the College, including economical and technically feasible solutions to technology issues.
- Centralize the technology information of the college into one are to assist in institutional planning, budgeting, and evaluating existing technology and educational resources.

Highlighted Achievements

- Coordinated and centralized technology planning across diverse areas including: IT Services, Marketing, Instructional
- Technology, Distance Education, Instructional Lab Department, Library, and individual departments and programs.
- Completed systematic walkthrough of all classroom and lab facilities and made recommendations on classroom layouts and minimum technology/educational resources to support an effective teaching and learning environment.

Additional Professional Responsibilities

Institutional Effectiveness Council	2011 - Present
QEP Assessment Committee	2010 – Present
Institutional Planning Council	2009 – Present
Faculty Senate	2009 – Present
Distance Education Committee	2009 – Present
QEP Core Committee	2007 – 2009
Institutional Assessment Committee	2001 - Present
DE@COM (Faculty collaborative group)	2005 - Present
Online Evaluation Transition Group	2007 - 2009
Standing Technology Committee	2001 - 2004
Distance Education Advisory Group	2001 - 2004
Dual Credit Advisory Group	2003 - 2005
Faculty Council Executive Committee	2001 - 2003
SACS Self-Study Steering Committee	2002 - 2002

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CLEAR LAKE, Houston, TX   **2005 –2007**

Web Course Developer

- ☐ Designed web courses for faculty in the Public Service Careers and Criminology Programs
- ☐ Converted traditional face to face classes to WebCT for online instruction

PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR EXPERIENCE

Wharton County Junior College	Online Government Instructor	2013 - Present
College of the Mainland	Online Government Instructor	2012 - Present
Alvin Community College, Alvin, TX	Government Instructor	2008 - Present
Houston Community College, Houston, TX	Government Instructor	1995 - 1998
Lone Star College, Houston, TX	Government Instructor	1996 - 1998

PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Improving Student Retention: Integrating Virtual Students into Live College Classes
Roundtable Presentation at the 2009 SACS-COC annual Meeting, Atlanta Georgia **2008**

Netting the Digital Natives - Webcasting
Merlot Elixir Collaborative Case Study Project - Student Engagement and Technology Theme. **2008**
Available at: http://elixr.merlot.org/case-stories/technology--learning/netting-the-digital-natives

Making Course Level Assessment the Foundation for Achieving Student Success in the General Education Curriculum
Presentation at the 2009 SACS-COC annual Meeting, Atlanta Georgia **2008**

A Successful Beginning: The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Topic Selection Process
Presentation at the 2009 SACS-COC annual Meeting, Atlanta Georgia **2008**

Thinking Critically about Media and Politics
Featured Speaker: University of Houston, Clear Lake Fourteenth Annual Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts **2008**

Grading Made Easy – Using Rubrics for grading and Assessment
College of the Mainland Professional Development Workshop Presentation **2007**

Media Literacy in a Technological Age
Featured Speaker: University of Houston, Clear Lake Twelfth Annual Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts **2006**

Developing and Assessing Student Learner Outcomes
College of the Mainland Professional Development Workshop Presentation **2006**

How to Lie with Statistics
Featured Speaker: University of Houston, Clear Lake Eleventh Annual Student Conference for Research and Creative Arts **2005**

Critical Thinking Assessment
College of the Mainland Professional Development Workshop Presentation **2005**

Dennis, Christopher, Marshall H. Medoff, and Michele N. Gagnier. "The Impact of Racially Disproportionate Outcomes on Public Policy: The U.S. Senate and the Death Penalty". Social Science Journal 35 (2): 169-181. **1998**

EDUCATION
M.A. Sociology, University of Houston Clear Lake, Houston, TX - 2006
Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) Political Science, University of Houston, Houston, TX – 1998
B.A. Political Science, California State University Long Beach, Long Beach, CA – 1992

ASSOCIATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

American Political Science Association	Texas Blackboard Users Group
Texas Community College Teachers Association	Texas Distance Learning Association