

May 22, 2017

Ashwin Satyanarayana  
Computer Systems Technology

Dear Ashwin:

Thank you for your dedicated efforts toward development of your First Year Learning Communities (FYLC) course to be taught in the fall semester of 2017, Story-Telling in Interactive Fiction Games. Your work to make effective pedagogical changes in the area of general education, including the use of open pedagogy on the OpenLab, in your course will benefit our newest students as they transition into college. You also created and presented on the OpenLab site one shared activity you and your partner will offer your students in their fall courses.

During the spring 2017 semester, you and your FYLC teaching partner participated in three workshops designed to support the mission statement of our First Year Learning Communities: *to facilitate learning and build interdisciplinary connections among faculty, while encouraging intellectual curiosity of both faculty and our diverse student population*. During this semester, you explored through workshops and reading materials, the following subjects:

- Gaining awareness of our students' concerns, vulnerabilities, and challenges as they enter the college environment, how faculty can help facilitate a more successful transition, and the various resources available to incoming students at the college
- Creating and implementing open pedagogy strategies into course materials as a means to foster community and learning, using the college's OpenLab
- Possibilities for participating in collaborative scholarship in teaching and learning, specifically in the area of First Year Learning Communities

Through your creative approach to course development, you support the college's goal of increasing our students' GPA, retention rates, and graduation rates. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 12:45 - 2:15 pm during our fall luncheon meeting.

Very best wishes,



Sandra Cheng  
Associate Professor of Humanities  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC



Lauri Aguirre  
Director of First Year Programs



Karen Goodlad  
Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC



Julia Jordan  
Director of Faculty Commons



Jennifer Sears  
Assistant Professor of English  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC