

May 1st, 2018

Dear Professor Ashwin Satyanarayana,

Thank you for your dedicated efforts toward development of your First Year Learning Communities (FYLC) course to be taught in the fall semester of 2018, "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 FYLC 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 partners will offer students in their fall courses.

During the spring 2018 semester, you and your FYLC teaching partners participated in three workshops designed to support the mission statement of our First Year Learning Communities: *to facilitate learning and build inter-disciplinary 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:

- Understanding who our first year students are and working on strategies to foster critical thinking through both independent and collaborative learning
- Creating and implementing open pedagogy strategies into course materials as a means to foster community and learning, using the college's OpenLab
- Developing research methods in the Scholarship of 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, credit accumulation, and graduation rates. We look forward to seeing you on October 18, 2018 at 12:45-2:15 pm during our fall luncheon meeting.

Very best wishes,

Sandra Cheng  
Associate Professor of Art History  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Karen Goodlad  
Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Jennifer Sears  
Assistant Professor of English  
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Lauri Aguirre  
Director of First Year Programs

Julia Jordan  
Director of Faculty Commons