

April 25, 2019

Dear Professor Satyanarayana:

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued efforts toward the leadership and development of the First Year Learning Communities program during the 2018-2019 academic year. As a member of the FYLC leadership team, you and your colleagues spent the fall semester brainstorming ideas for a three-part faculty professional development series. The leadership team's pedagogical knowledge in the areas of general education, collaborative learning and open pedagogy on the OpenLab effectively guided FYLC faculty to support our newest students as they transition into college.

During the planning process, you and your partners designed three workshops 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.*

As a result, this spring semester you successfully led the FYLC faculty through activities and reading materials you developed and compiled related to the following workshop topics:

- *Using the OpenLab to Build Community in First Year Learning Communities: A Student Success Partnership* (Karen Goodlad, facilitator)
- *Generating ideas for FYLC scholarship* (Ashwin Satyanarayana, facilitator)
- *Understanding the Freshman Transition* (Jennifer Sears, facilitator)

The development of the workshops and the support offered to FYLC faculty during the course of this academic year were inspired by your understanding of our City Tech students, faculty and college mission, as well as by the Middle States recommendation to “implement a comprehensive, cross-institutional plan for student retention and success.” Furthermore, you and your FYLC colleagues contributed to research and articles inspired by your FYLC work with “Our Stories” and the development of a virtual student first-year community on the OpenLab. We look forward to the next academic year and continuing to shape the First Year Learning Communities together.

Very best wishes,

Lauri Aguirre
First Year Programs Director

Julia Jordan
Faculty Commons Director