

April 1, 2019

Dear Professor Ashwin Satyanarayana,

Thank you for your continued commitment to First Year Learning Communities (FYLC). You are making a conscious decision to add to the national conversation of high impact educational practices that encourage our students to learn beyond the classroom. We recognize and appreciate your ongoing efforts toward further development of your course to be taught in the fall semester of 2019, "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 FYLC Faculty OpenLab site one shared activity you and your partner will offer students in their fall courses.

During the spring 2019 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 inter-disciplinary connections among faculty, while encouraging intellectual curiosity of both faculty and our diverse student population*. This semester you explored through workshops and reading materials the following concepts:

- 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 17, 2019 at 12:45-2:15 pm during our fall luncheon meeting.

Very best wishes,

Karen Goodlad
Assistant Professor of Hospitality Management
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Ashwin Satyanarayana
Associate Professor of Computer Systems Technology
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Jennifer Sears
Assistant Professor of English
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Lauri Aguirre
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