SANTA ANA COLLEGE

PART III: SAC Conference Summary

Name: Monica J. Collins

Date: January 26-27, 2018

Conference Title: 5th Annual Active Learning Leaders Teaching Conference

Conference Sponsoring Organization: Palomar College and Active Learning Leaders

Conference Description
Learner-centered teaching is where the focus is on the student as learner, seeks to improve student learning and success, rather than on the mere transmission of information. It describes a concept and a practice in which students and professors learn from one another.
Summary – One Full Page: Please describe the benefits to Student Success & Equity that you gained by participating in this event. How will you disseminate/share this information with your SAC colleagues?
The pre-conference day shared the basic philosophy of Learner-centered teaching primarily through teaching by doing. The presenter, Mark Reardon, was dynamic and practices what he preaches! There was more material prepared that could be handled in the six hours that were allotted. We learned about keeping at the forefront of our lessons 'what matters most' and how to determine 'the main thing' we want to impart to our students. We studied how the brain, game theory, the 'x' factor and conflict all play into our classroom experiences. During the all day conference on Saturday, we had an opening session with Mark Reardon again, where he presented "Navigating the New Reality: A Brain-Centered Approach to Teaching and Learning". And again, I witnessed him teaching through employing his teaching suggestions. Then I attended break out workshops on: 1. Embedded Tutors in the Classroom, 2. Think-Pair-Share: Active Learning Strategies in the classroom, and a "Cafe Conversation" style workshop. I found the conference well organized and would fully feel comfortable recommending others from RSCCD attend next year's conference. I know that there were a few faculty from SCC in attendance although I did not interact with them. I have already altered my teaching style in the classroom and am playing with ways to incorporate other active learning ideas. I am enthralled with the notion of embedded tutors and wonder what that could do for my ASL classroom and others! They are heavily used in ESL classes at Palomar college. I will be sharing my conference materials with my office partner, Melanie Mowrer and maybe she and I can craft a way to share this information with others. I don't feel at all like an expert on the subject to consider presenting the material to a group. But I am open to discussing the conference with individuals. I think Mark Reardon, CEO of Centrepointe Leadership is a fantastic presenter and SAC could consider contacting him for our purposes!!! www.thecentrepointegroup.com I greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend this conference!!!