**To**: Dennis Bertch

**From**: Beth Purdy

**Date**: January 8, 2013

**Self-Assessment and Improvement Initiatives for 2013**

In the following, I will assess my strengths and challenges for the 2012 calendar year based on my teaching at KVCC. I will also identify a plan for improvement for both my classroom and program for the 2013 calendar year.

**Self-Assessment**

My overall goal as an instructor is to provide students with a classroom experience that exceeds my own experience as a student. I received an excellent education, but there were some skills that I did not learn until graduate school that I should have learned at the 100 level. One teaching strategy absent in my own education was in-class demonstrations. I do not want to put my students in the same position. With this goal in mind, I provide my students with as much information as possible. I link YouTube video demonstrations in Moodle, demonstrate different techniques in-class, discuss my own personal approach to drawing and painting, provide students with resources that relate to individual goals and concepts, and I also suggest texts and artists for students to research outside of class. I feel that this approach covers different learning styles and optimally provides every student an opportunity to learn.

On a personal level, I feel I am an adaptable, patience, balanced, and approachable instructor. I believe that if students feel like they can communicate with me, and that their voice will be heard, then that increases the possibility of student success. On the other hand, sometimes a student needs “tuff-love,” and I am able to read the situation and adapt accordingly. I also try to create a sense of community in the classroom by playing icebreaker games on the first day of class. I started using icebreakers in the winter semester of 2010. I have found that students begin to interact with each other and form relationships earlier in the semester than previously. As a class, we all get a chance to have some fun on a day that is normally dry and informative.

**Challenges**

With five and half years of teaching experience at two institutions under my belt, I am at a point where I have more confidence with course material and classroom management than challenges. With this being said, there is always room for improvement. In addition to instructor-based improvement, my program is going through a major reconstruction that presents certain challenges. I have stepped into an important role for our current transition because my subject matter is taught at two campuses.

One area where I could improve my instruction would be to focus more on student retention in my Painting 1 course. Painting has it’s own language and I have found that students are not retaining the vocabulary with my current strategies. Currently I have my students fill out a vocabulary sheet as their first assignment, then I provide visual examples and demonstrations of the majority of the vocabulary list, and the major assignments apply the same terminology. In other words, students are asked to look-up and define terminology, are provided extensive examples, and apply terminology in assignments. Unfortunately, this is not enough. I think adding some small writing assignment and asking students to create swatches of different techniques may improve retention. I will then administer a quiz to test their retention toward the end of the semester.

Another area where I feel I can improve my instruction is student accountability in ANM 105. This is the only class I teach with a textbook and I am finding that most students stop referring to the text after about 3 weeks. As a result, our class discussions become limited each week. The textbook is filled with relevant information on basic drawing techniques and visual examples. Most of the reading assignments are less than ten pages long and usually ask student to refer to specific examples that will help them understand the in-class assignment and homework. I would like to implement some writing assignments in Moodle that directly relate to the reading assignments, and pop quizzes to start our class discussions.

One of my most current challenges relates to the overall transitional nature of the Art and New Media program. In the past three years I have settled into an unofficial leadership position at the Center for New Media. This academic year, I have been asked to head a workshop with Dave Posther focused on streamlining our program of study for 2-D Art, 3-D Art, Photography, and Illustration. My personal goal is to implement a studio art or fine art degree/transfer program that includes all forms of 2-D and 3-D art (digital fine art, traditional fine art, photography, and ceramics). I think that a cohesive program can serve as both an Associates Degree and also as a transfer program for all Fine Art disciplines offered at KVCC.

**Improvement Initiatives**

Based on my self-assessment of my strengths and challenges, along with my goals as an instructor, I would like to propose the following three goals and corresponding improvement initiatives for the 2013 calendar year (Winter 2013 and Fall 2013).

**Goal: Student Retention in ART 105 Painting 1**

* **Improvement Initiative:** By the conclusion of the Fall 2013 semester, I will have added an in-class assignment asking students to create (apply) six different painting techniques as swatch examples, created 2 Moodle writing assignments focused on painting techniques and the overall painting process outlined throughout the course, and developed a quiz to administer toward the end of the semester to test the retention rate.
* **Measurement Criteria:** I will share the results of the application of practicing different painting techniques through swatches, the results of the writing assignments, and ultimately the results of the “retention quiz” as evidence of my improvement initiative.

**Goal: Student Accountability in ANM 105 Drawing Basics for New Media**

* **Improvement Initiative:** By the Fall 2013 semester, I will create and implement a writing assignment, terminology-matching quiz, writing reflection, or pop quiz for each unit in ANM 105 that directly relate to the reading assignments for said unit. I plan to use both Moodle and handouts to achieve this initiative. I want to use as many different assessment types as possible to offer variety for both the students and myself. The use of these assignments will hold my students accountable for the reading assignment and help jump-start our class discussions.
* **Measurement Criteria:** I will include sample copies of the assignments and quizzes, as well as the student’s results and overall participation.

**Goal: Propose a working document for a cohesive program that can serve as both an Associates Degree and also as a Transfer Program for all Fine Art disciplines offered at KVCC.**

* **Improvement Initiative:** Due to the fact that this goal includes more than just my own involvement, I would like to at least have a working document prepared by the end of the Fall 2013 semester to propose program changes specific to the fine art (or traditional art) courses taught at KVCC. It is my understanding that the Director of Art and New Media is ready to take action and streamline the Art and New Media program as a whole. I want to do my part to get this task done and implemented as soon as possible.
* **Measurement Criteria:** I will submit the working document as evidence of my initiatives. I will also include an individual proposal that I personal create for review, and ask the Art and New Media Director and/or Program Chair to write a letter about my involvement in our reconstruction process throughout the 2013 calendar year.