



# TLC News



The Teaching & Learning Communities Program at PCC

Fall 2005

## TLC Highlights 2004-2005 at a Glance

### Course Field Trips

- ◆ LA River, Cal State Long Beach, USC, Ropes Leadership Challenge
- ◆ California Science Center

### Conferences/Workshops

- ◆ PCC/MSMC Summer Faculty Institute, Critical Pedagogy: A Tool for Culturally Responsive Teaching
- ◆ UC Berkeley, Summer Institute for Community College Leadership and Innovation
- ◆ Cerritos College, Summer Workshop on Benchmark Portfolios
- ◆ PCC/PUSD Pathways to Success dinner/workshop

### Events

- ◆ Spring 2005 campus-wide theme initiative: What Drives LA
- ◆ XL3 end-of-the-First-Year Experience celebration, Dodger Stadium
- ◆ XL4 recruitment, orientation, and summer bridge
- ◆ Reorganization of the TLC and the TLC Advisory Committee

### Grants

- ◆ Title V ends
- ◆ Title V Coop, Hewlett/Carnegie, and National Science Foundation grants begin

### Evaluation

- ◆ UCLA latent class analysis of XL and the Career Pathways
- ◆ Photo analysis - Future Teachers and Future Nurses
- ◆ TLC space focus group and survey
- ◆ XL3 Survey B
- ◆ Title V Summative Report, Title V Coop, and Hewlett/Carnegie Progress Reports
- ◆ Math 402 Faculty Inquiry Group (FIG) - SLO and rubric development, best practices, pre/post assessment

## .XL4 SB + (M402)FIG x 3SLOs = Success in Math

Two intrepid Math 402 instructors tackled Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) this past spring and summer as part of the Hewlett/Carnegie grant, *Strengthening Pre-Collegiate Education at Community Colleges* (SPECC). Ann Davis and Jay Cho, who teach in the .XL Summer Bridge (SB) Program, formed a Faculty Inquiry Group (FIG) with six of their colleagues to discuss quantitative literacy, share their best practices, align them with new SLOs, and tackle the issues surrounding assessment.

In the Summer 2005 intersession Ann and Jay piloted their new classroom strategies.

They also created a rubric and assessment tools that were specifically tied to learning outcomes they had developed with their colleagues and Wei-I Wang, IPRO senior analyst.

Ann and Jay will present the results of their project to math faculty later this fall, but one thing already stands out —

developing SLOs at a particular course level provides a great opportunity for faculty to reflect on what they teach, why they teach what they do, and how they measure whether and what their students have learned.

Ann and Jay also appreciated the input from non-math faculty to make sure their handouts and tests were fair, reasonable, and

appropriate. Jay said, "Some things are so obvious to math teachers. It was really valuable having an English instructor look at the language we used in our directions and word problems so that they were clear to math students."



Now that the Math 402 FIG is off to a good start, Sharon Bober will put together a FIG for Math 125. All of the work will be carefully evaluated and findings will be shared with faculty and administrators at a basic skills SLO spring retreat as well with the 10 other colleges participating in the Hewlett/Carnegie SPECC consortium.

## PCC and Mount St. Mary's College to Create Pathways to Success

In October 2004 PCC and Mt. St. Mary's College (MSMC) received great news -- their US Department of Education Title V Cooperative grant proposal had been successfully funded. The collaboration between the two institutions focuses on the development of career-focused learning communities, career pathways. PCC will use its funds to 1) enhance existing career pathways in health and education; 2) create new pathways in business and art & technology; 3) continue to develop the existing TLC peer tutoring/mentoring program, *Conexion*; 4) provide students with paid internships; and 5) develop collaborative activities among faculty and students at the two campuses.

English faculty Lynn Wright, project manager for the five-year grant, points out that the project is based on an important TLC research finding: students enrolled in basic skills courses who have decided on a major and career succeed in those courses at a higher rate than those students who have not. She also believes the collaboration will help PCC continue to strengthen its role in moving students through the academic pipeline: high school to college to transfer.

If you are interested in participating in a career pathway or would like more information, contact Lynn at ext. 3047.





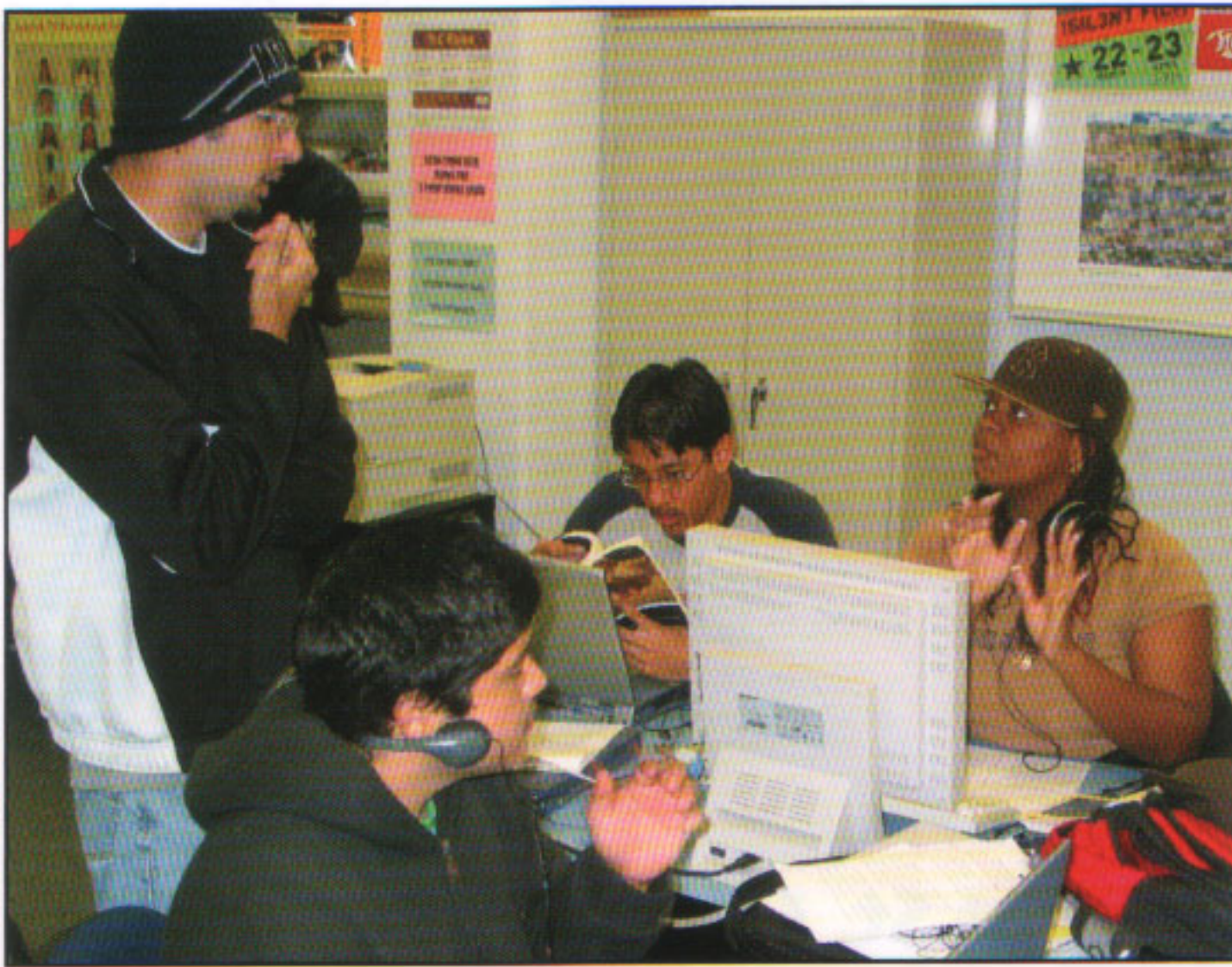


## Title V Grant Ends but the TLC Lives On

After five years, PCC's US Department of Education Title V grant will come to an end on September 30, 2005. Other grants have already taken its place and will help shape the future of the Teaching and Learning Communities (TLC) Program at PCC. However, Title V will be remembered for providing the seed money for the TLC and a variety of programs and events that focus on basic skills education: .XL, Future Teachers and Nurses, the ESL Blocks, speakers, field trips, conference attendance and presentations, and faculty development retreats.

Title V staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who helped make the past five years productive and

rewarding: Grover Goyne, Jackie Jacobs, Janet Levine, Rosemary Aragon, Amy Ulmer, Wei-I Wang, Alicia Vargas, Dave Douglass, Rob Lee, Ramona Nale, Cheryl Storms, John Barkman, and all the math, English, and ESL faculty who worked hard to develop innovative curriculum; attended meetings, workshops, and retreats; participated in evaluation; and took chances with new forms of instruction to help their students succeed. Brock Klein, project manager, said, "The TLC staff have been impressed by the skills and dedication of all the Title V participants and grateful for their generosity and active participation."



## PCC and MSMC Faculty Discuss Culture & Curriculum

Six Future Teachers, Future Nurses, and .XL faculty joined faculty from Mt. St. Mary's College in July to explore the theoretical underpinnings of culturally relevant instruction, ethnic variances in communication styles, redesign of courses syllabi, problem-posing instruction, and multiple means of assessment.

PCC workshop coordinator Lynn Wright worked with Diane Rodriguez, MSMC professor of sociology and director of the college's Institute for Latina Studies, to put together the Title V Coop-funded event, *Critical Pedagogy: A Tool for Culturally Responsive Teaching*, which took place at MSMC's Doheny campus and the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu.

Workshop participants reviewed and reworked their syllabi for fall but also had time to meet informally and tour "Collapse," the Natural History Museum's current exhibit. ESL instructor Shelagh Rose enjoyed working with the interdisciplinary team from PCC but also meeting and collaborating with MSMC faculty. "This was a great opportunity to identify some of the challenges that faculty at both schools face and work together to come up with practical and useful solutions."

Lynn and Dr. Rodriguez plan to hold another intensive workshop next summer and hope to broaden the scope and invite more instructors from the two campuses.



## PCC Joins a Consortium to Strengthen Pre-Collegiate Education

In January 2005 Pasadena City College received a grant from the Hewlett/Carnegie Foundations' *Strengthening Pre-Collegiate Education in Community College's* (SPECC) to work with 10 other California community colleges over the next three years to design effective models for teaching mathematics and literacy at the pre-collegiate level. PCC was chosen because it has already made promising strides toward developing innovative and effective classroom approaches through its Teaching and Learning Communities (TLC) Program.

PCC's proposal calls for the expansion of .XL, the summer bridge and first-year experience program, to permit a larger and more diverse group of students who place into developmental

English and math to participate. In addition, the grant will allow the TLC to enhance its current faculty development program to help basic skills instructors align their best practices with student learning outcomes (SLOs).

SPECC funds have already been used to tackle Math 402 issues and develop important ties to high school faculty and counselors. In Spring 2006 the grant will sponsor a retreat for basic skills faculty. Project manager Brock Klein believes that participation in the Hewlett/Carnegie project will provide PCC with valuable state-wide resources and lead to further innovation and insight into pre-collegiate education.

## With National Science Foundation Funds, PCC Will Encourage STEM Majors



The National Science Foundation (NSF) has presented PCC with the exciting challenge of increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities who major in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) over a period of five years.

PCC's successful proposal has three innovative components: 1) MaS (Math and Science), a summer bridge/first and second-year experience program; 2) the Math Path, an intensive, math-only, two-semester sequence that includes supplemental math instruction; and 3) Interactive Multi-Media Exercises (IMMEX), an online software system developed by UCLA professor Ronald Stevens to encourage problem-solving skills in math and science. The first year of the NSF grant period will be spent recruiting staff and instructors, designing the curriculum, and developing course materials.

The MaS Program will be housed in the TLC and builds on the experiences and resources developed for the .XL Program. Critical to its success is outreach to high school faculty, counselors, and administrators. Clearly, young students with interest in a STEM field need to hear about the MaS Program and understand the benefits of joining – the grant will streamline the educational path to transfer while offering integrated curricula, counseling, tutoring, internships, and field trips. Bob Miller, Associate Dean of Academic Support, stated, "The NSF grant provides PCC with the extraordinary opportunity to work closely with local high schools to identify talented students, nurture their interest in math and science, and give them the support they need to succeed here and after they transfer. We also plan to use NSF funds to strengthen the TLC's commitment to basic skills math instructors and the success of their students."

## Campus-Wide Group Works on 2006 Campus-Wide Theme — Work

This summer the *What Drives LA* (WDLA) Steering Committee began work on the Spring 2006 initiative. After reviewing last year's management structure, budget, marketing strategies, and events, Carrie Afuso, Kay Dabelow, Cyndi George, Krista Goguen, Brock Klein, Bob Miller, Lisa Sugimoto, Amy Ulmer, and Lynn Wright chose to keep last year's theme, Los Angeles, but focus on work.

Lisa Sugimoto, VP of Student Services, believes the narrower theme will help the college address its mission to prepare students both personally and professionally. "We want

our students to leave PCC with the skills they will need to thrive in the workforce and contribute to their community. That means that we must expose them to different career options and help them understand the education and training they will need to achieve their goals."

The committee will work to involve more administrators and staff in campus events and instructional activities. They also plan to celebrate student work during a week-long convocation in May, with the Borders of Diversity Conference as its centerpiece.

Stay tuned for an announcement of WDLA's PFE Request for Proposals (RFP) and a list of Spring 2006 events.







## The TLC Team

Members of the TLC Advisory Board and the TLC Staff are working together to ensure that:

- ◆ the projects' objectives are achieved in a timely manner and in accordance with both federal and institutional policies
- ◆ open communication is established and maintained between TLC staff and PCC's Executive Committee, faculty, and students
- ◆ formative evaluation guides participants and ensures the quality of the project

### Staff

Brock Klein, *Co-Director*  
Lynn Wright, *Co-Director*  
Pat L. Canonizado, *Secretary*  
Evangeline Quintanar, *Counselor*

### Advisory Board

Lisa Sugimoto,  
*Vice President, Student Services*  
Bob Miller,  
*Associate Dean, Academic Support*  
Kay Dabelow,  
*President, Academic Senate*  
Amy Ulmer,  
*Dean, English Division*  
Kathleen Rodarte,  
*Assistant Dean, EOP&S*  
Wei-I Wang,  
*Senior Analyst, IPRO*  
Edward Martinez,  
*Counselor*  
Beverly Tate,  
*Assistant Professor, English Division*  
Alicia Vargas,  
*Instructor, Business Division*  
Jay Cho,  
*Instructor, Math Division*

## What's Up in 2005-2006?

- New Career Pathway: Future Designers
- High school/college faculty partnerships
- What Drives LA, Spring 2006
- Basic Skills Faculty Retreat, Spring 2006
- PCC/Mt. St. Mary's College Teaching Institute, Summer 2006

## The Year in Pictures



PCC & PUSD faculty and administrators at the Pathways to Success dinner/workshop.



Future Nurses at Cal State Long Beach.



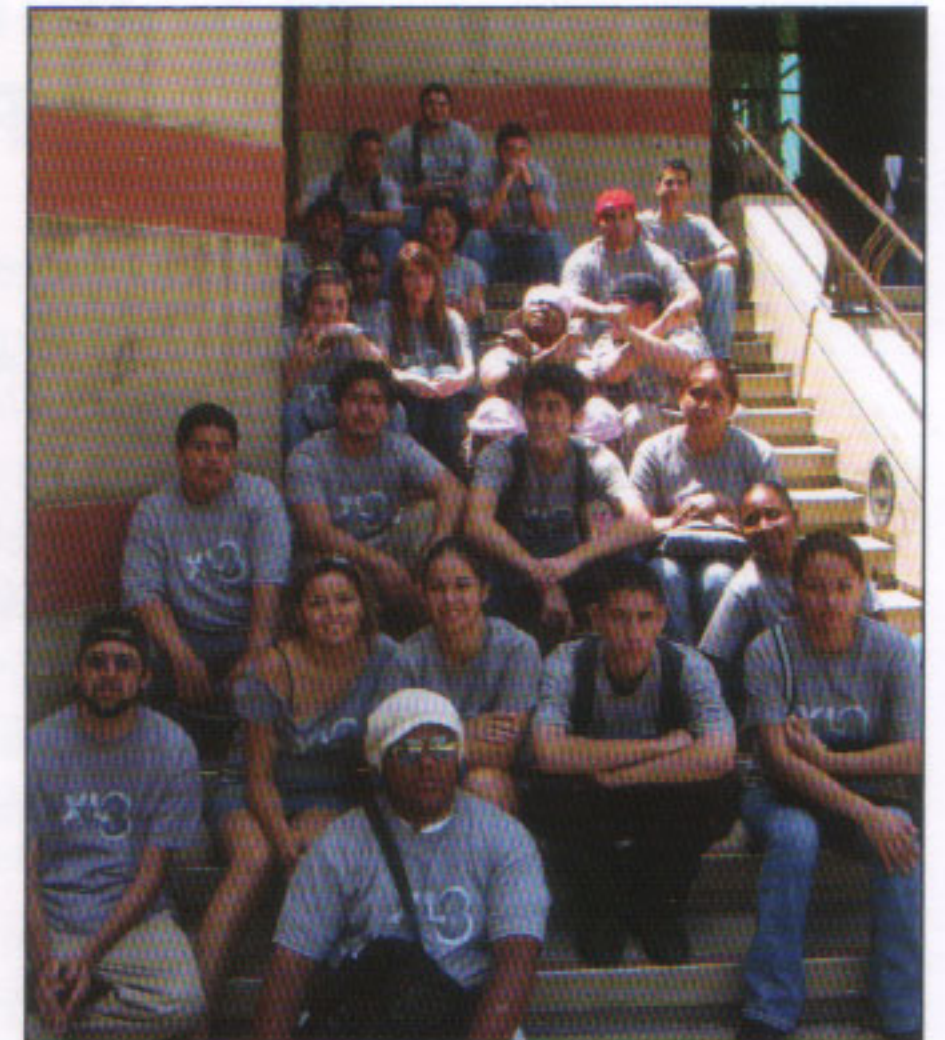
XL4 students at the summer Ropes Challenge.



Bob Miller, Associate Dean of Academic Support, with XL4 Summer Bridge students.



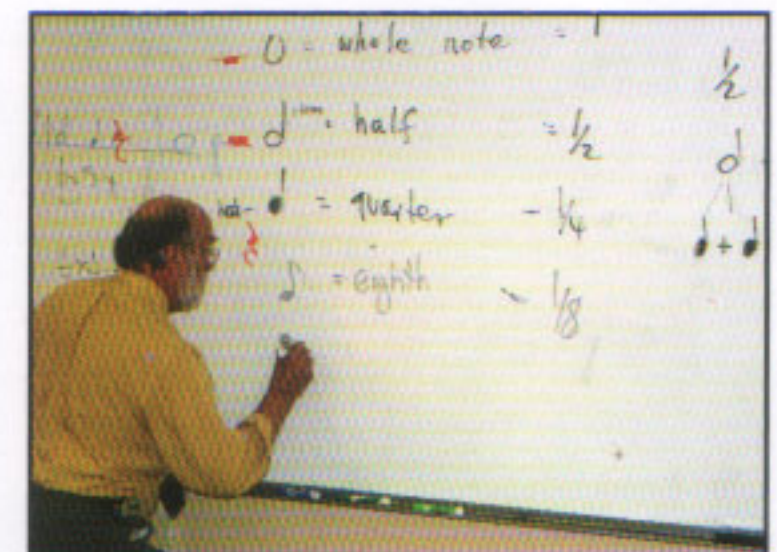
A few of the TLC's Conexion tutors



XL3 students at UCLA.



XL4 Summer Bridge math.



Paul Kilian making the math/music connection.



TLC counselor Evangeline Quintanar getting ready for the Ropes Challenge.



XL3 students & faculty singing the Dodger blues.



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