

April 1, 2019

Dear Professor Kerin Coughlin,

Thank you for your dedicated efforts toward the development of your First Year Learning Communities (FYLC) course to be taught in the fall semester of 2019, "Fight for your Rights!" 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 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 interdisciplinary connections among faculty, while encouraging intellectual curiosity of both faculty and our diverse student population*. During this semester, you explored through workshops and reading materials, the following subjects:

- 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
Faculty Coordinator, FYLC

Lauri Aguirre
Director of First Year Programs

Julia Jordan
Director of Faculty Commons