Success Story
Navarro College

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Karla Swanson

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"I have learned a lot over the past couple of semesters using the Connect Master and SIMnet platforms. I have learned how to adjust the timing and content to serve my students better. I love the relevance of the curriculum, and I believe it has helped my success rate, retention, and student engagement."

Connect Master and SIMnet Facilitate Focused Teaching and Seamless Transitions

Challenge

Professor Karla Swanson needed a program with up-to-date content relevant to students, adaptive learning incorporated, and Inclusive Access (IA) for all enrolled students.

Solution

McGraw Hill Connect Master Investigating Technology; SIMnet, Inclusive Access

Result

With Connect Master, SIMnet, and Inclusive Access, Swanson has seen more success and course completions.

The Challenge

Professor Seeks Program to Engage Students and Increase Retention

Swanson teaches Introduction to Computing to more than 1,400 students annually, striving to increase student success with Inclusive Access, engaging content, and adaptive learning. Before Inclusive Access, Swanson was losing students rapidly as they would sign up for the 14-day trial and not purchase the access codes. Before Connect Master and SIMnet, students did not relate to the content, there was no adaptive learning tool, and the content was out-of-date. With 700 students per term, not having an adaptive learning tool made customizing instruction for different levels and learning styles difficult.

The Solution

Connect Master and SIMnet Provide Frequently Updated Content and Adaptive Learning Tools. Inclusive Access Ensures Readiness to Learn on Day One.

Investigating Technology is a unique, digital-first learning solution powered by McGraw Hill's Connect Master that is consistently updated with refreshed content to provide students with the most relevant computer concepts and digital literacy information. Investigating Technology uses this current and engaging content to create an adaptive learning experience that is customized to match each learner's needs. "Connect Master content was up-to-date and relevant to my current students, and the adaptive learning was a priority in our adoption criteria," says Swanson. Adaptive learning allows students to propel forward at a pace tailored to their needs, and Investigating Technology gives users multiple opportunities to use practice quizzes and customized learning activities.

Students appreciate the ease of Inclusive Access and having the materials on day one. "They don't have to stand in line at the bookstore, make sure financial aid has hit, or wait for a paycheck. Many different factors can happen when a student must purchase on their own; Inclusive Access makes their life a little easier," explains Swanson.

The Results

Retention and Pass Rates Increase with Connect Master, SIMnet, and Inclusive Access

Swanson has seen more success and completion of the course over the past year with Inclusive Access. "I can start on day one, and I know everyone has access. We don't lose any instruction time, and the implementation is seamless between Canvas, Connect Master, SIMnet, and the student," explains Swanson.

Students are more engaged with the content because it is relevant and up-to-date for today's learners. The topics are aimed toward the right age group and learning styles. "I believe more students are making the connection between the concepts and the applications. My success (passing) rate has increased since using Connect Master and SIMnet," states Swanson. Quiz scores also improved, with students averaging 75-80% across all sections. After implementing Connect Master and SIMnet, the course passing rates have increased across approximately 20 sections per semester. Each section, on average, had only three students out of the 35 failing with an F. Most sections contained four students with a D average, and the rest passed with A, B, or C. The fail rate decreased substantially in the online and dual credit sections, with most sections containing, on average, two Fs, two Ds, and mostly As, Bs, or Cs. "I also attribute this success to the Inclusive Access implementation," adds Swanson.

Implementation

The following determines the course grade:

- **Connect Master Concepts 20%**
- **Connect Master Portion of Final Exam 5%**
- **Connect Master and SIMnet Quizzes 10%**
- **SIMnet Labs and Projects 30%**
- **SIMnet Portion of Final Exam 15%**
- **Signature Assignments and Projects 20%**

Swanson assigns, on average, three assignments per week. She typically assigns the adaptive learning module, the associated quiz, and a Video Case Study or the Application-Based Activities (ABA's) accompanying the concept module. The concept module is usually adapted to 1 to 1.5 hours,

the concept module quiz is set for two attempts but timed for 10 minutes, and the ABA accompanying the topic can take 15-30 minutes for the student to complete. The Video Case Study typically takes students around 15-20 minutes. Swanson also appreciates the teacher resources. "I utilize the PowerPoint presentations that accompany the teacher resources, and I also use the worksheet topics as discussion boards; I usually pick 1-2 questions from the worksheet to make a class discussion or online discussion board," notes Swanson.

Student performance and At-risk are Swanson's go-to reports. "With just a few clicks, I can see the students who need more attention and more help, and I can also see which types of assignments the student may need more help on," adds Swanson.