1. Name, Rank, Department/School/Unit, College/Unit

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2. Date range of your sabbatical leave.

January 2013 - May 2013

3. What were your sabbatical objectives and planned activities?

Project 1: Develop new methods to teach general and upper division chemistry lecture courses.

Project 2: Develop small scale industrial process to treat lychee with HCl to prevent browning.

Project 3: Develop dietary supplement using extracts from lychee peels

4. To what degree did you meet each of your sabbatical objectives and complete each of your sabbatical planned activities? Please explain.

The objectives of Project 1 were met while Projects 2 and 3 were not addressed during the sabbatical leave.

I developed a “merged learning” technique for Physical Chemistry for the Life Sciences (CHEM 350). The method has students read the text based on notes written by the instructor; each of which covers a defined learning objective. This approach allows students to move at their own pace; giving them the opportunity to re-read the notes/text if they are struggling with a concept or to move forward at a pace commensurate with their understanding of the material. Lecture time is used to work problems, answer questions, and teach problem solving skills. This method breaks up long lectures into smaller, more targeted lectures that will make better use of time for both students and the instructor.

5. Summarize the contributions you believe the sabbatical leave has provided for your own professional development, as well as perceived benefits for your department, school, college, university, and/or profession.

The sabbatical allowed me to develop a new way of teaching chemistry courses. Previously, I had used the same general strategies since beginning my teaching career over 20 years ago. Student attendance and performance in CHEM 350 was poor before these new changes were implemented. Now attendance is excellent and student performance is substantially better.
I have shared my approach with my colleagues and they have shown interest in changing teaching methods to help our students succeed. I feel we now have an teaching process in our department that is evolving in response to students’ needs and abilities.

6. Optional: What was your greatest accomplishment and what was your greatest challenge during your sabbatical leave? Please explain.

I felt very good about revamping CHEM 350, something that was very difficult since I was changing methods that have been in place for many years.

7. Optional: For other colleagues who are considering applying for sabbatical, what two or three pieces of advice would you like to provide for them?

Do not over commit; choose reasonable projects that will allow you to make significant progress. Take time to travel to a foreign country. The perspective you receive will be invaluable.

8. Optional: Please feel free to provide any other information that you would like to share about your sabbatical leave.

Take a sabbatical every time you are eligible. It is the best perk any job could possibly have.