Instructor Self-Reflection

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Twenty-two years ago I started teaching full-time at BMCC. As I mentioned in my last self-reflection a great deal has changed in teaching over these years. I taught 5 face-to-face classes and did not teach online. My class room consisted of a small television for videos, a blackboard with chalk, an overhead projector for transparencies and a room with 45 small desks. Currently my class room consists of a computer connected to a starboard, an Elmo, a large projector that projects from either the DVD/Video player or the computer, a white board and 20 large tables that seat two students per table. Over the years I have revised my course to encompass the new technologies and classroom configurations. I have also converted all my courses to an online format so that they are available via multiple delivery modes.

Course Changes – in class
In my last reflection, I spoke to all the changes that had occurred in higher education and how that impacted my teaching methods. I have always liked a good lecture and admit this is my most comfortable means of delivering material. However, over the years I have tried to branch out utilizing more group activities with an emphasis on more student engagement and involvement with the material.

This past year I attend a conference on Team Based Learning. I am very intrigued with this method of teaching and am working toward including this method in my future lesson plans. The method utilizes individual quizzes after which the same quiz is attempted with a group of people and then the two scores are averaged. The nice thing about this method is it encourages engagement with the material by the students and requires them to think about why one answer is the best choice. After the individual and group quiz, the students work in groups addressing a problem that helps them to further understand the concepts and ideas presented in the course. Team Based Learning requires a great deal of preparation and thought which is one of the things I will be working on to improve my teaching for the future.

I continue to work on making my powerpoints more interesting. I am particularly drawn to visuals. Over the past years I have begun to develop lessons which include photographs and other visuals that illustrate the concepts or terms that I am presenting. I have found that visualizing the concept helps students to better understand the concept and aids in retention of the information. An additional benefit is that many of the photos have aided in internationalizing my curriculum which has been an important goal for me. The incorporation

of visuals has brought an added dimension to learning the material which I believe has been particularly effective.

Course Changes – on-line
As I mentioned in my last evaluation, the biggest change in my career as an instructor was moving my courses to an online format. This year, the College is switching to a new learning management system. I will be converting my classes to the new system this summer. I hope to incorporate Open Education Resources in my online courses (as well as my in-class courses) so that the cost of a textbook isn't an added burden to the students.

Challenges for the future
Technology continues to be a challenge for me. Learning new programs and new methods of delivery are issues that I resist. Over the next few years technology will most likely continue to be the one issue that I must continue to spend time on. The conversion to the new learning management system will give me an opportunity to improve in this area and I hope to make my online class more engaging and interesting to students.