



MVC tutor training

For the past three years Title V has helped provide tutor training for more than 40 Mountain View tutors through the National Tutoring Association. Due to this specialized training, the majority of all tutors in departments across the campus have been NTA certified.

In October 2004, Dr. Sandi Ayaz, NTA Executive Director, once again visited MVC where she trained six tutors at the beginning level, 10 at the advanced level, seven at the master level, and two as tutor trainers. The first time Dr. Ayaz visited MVC in August 2002, she trained a total of 39 tutors. In November 2003, she trained 19 tutors.

Tutor training involves a variety of lectures, discussions, and activities throughout the day. Topics covered include learning styles, measures of effectiveness, students with disabilities, study skills, and dimensions of professionalism.

Kendra Scott, an English tutor in the Learning Skills Center, was trained at the master level this fall. She believes the training helps her

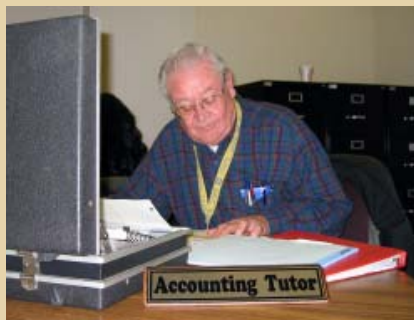
relate to her students on a more personal level. "I learned to look at them as fellow learners rather than as customers, and this causes me to care more about their academic needs," she said. In addition to improved tutor/student

relations, Kendra finds that the training helps her on a personal level. "The opportunity to communicate with tutors in other fields during training reminds you that the tutoring difficulties you encounter are not yours alone, but universal difficulties. That helps," she said.

According to Dr. Ayaz, there are many things that set MVC apart from other educational facilities, one of which is the tutor retention rate. Because MVC retains many of the same tutors over a long period of time, there are opportuni-

ties to keep training these tutors at higher levels. "Mountain View College employs more NTA certified tutors than any other current tutorial or learning assistance program, and...is the first program in the United States to train tutors at the master level of certification," said Dr. Ayaz.

MVC's Title V department looks forward to a continuing relationship with the National Tutoring Association, and with its help, continuing to strengthen its tutoring programs.



Top: Karen Blue, LSC Instructional Associate, assists MVC student Edris Huff with a writing assignment.

Bottom: Accounting tutor Jim Chancey prepares for the day.

Computer animation offers alternative mode of learning for science students

With the support of the Title V grant, Mountain View College is concentrating on increasing the enrollment and success rate of science students. With over 500 students enrolled in biology classes for non-science majors over each long semester, and almost 300 during the summer terms, MVC's science department strives to offer a variety of learning modes that increase opportunities for students. One such learning mode is computer animation, which plays an ever-expanding role in teaching the processes of science.

Together, Dr. Larry Legg, Dr. Robert Hadsell, and the rest of MVC's science faculty have produced over 100 computer animations for science courses.

Available through eCampus, these animations were originally created for the self-paced, non-science major biology courses; however, some of the animations are now being used in science-major classes, chemistry classes, and traditional lecture classes.

Each web tutorial for Biology 1408 and 1409 contains animations. These animations include both animated examples and auditory explanations that cover a wide variety of topics including atoms, elements, and isotopes; RNA and DNA; embryonic development; the circulatory, cardiovascular, and immune systems; properties of light and photosynthesis;

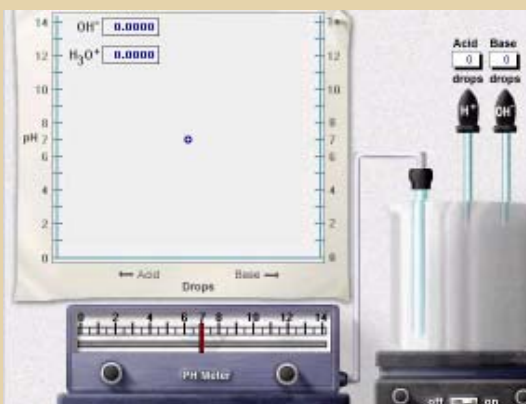
and behavioral biology.

A number of the animations are interactive simulations of lab work that would traditionally be performed in the biology lab. However, according to Dr. Legg, allowing students to do this lab work through online simulations is more cost-effective as chemicals and other supplies

do not need constant upkeep and replacement. And, more importantly, it allows every student to perform lab work independently, rather than working with lab partners and spending a lot of time observing while someone else works.

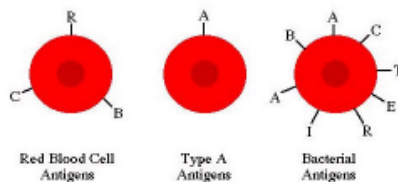
Overall, student response to animated, online biology tutorials has been very positive; Dr. Legg believes that this is a very comfortable medium for today's student, and that it is quite adequate as a supplemental learning

tool. "Just think about the difference between static pictures in a textbook and computer animations," said Dr. Legg. "And kids today have grown up in a generation used to working with computers and video games." Therefore, not only will computer animation continue to be used in science classes at MVC, but with the support of Title V, the development of new animations will also continue.



An animated pH meter allows students to determine the pH of a given solution.

There are 4 different blood types: A, B, C, and AB. How does your body know which blood type you are? There are antigens – markers – on the outside of every cell. There are antigens that say, "I'm a red blood cell", "I'm type A blood", and even antigens that say, "I'm me." Bacteria have antigens that say, "I'm a bacteria." So any given cell could have lots of different antigens.



An animated blood typing tutorial describes blood types and how to identify them, then allows students to perform mock blood typing tests.

Title V staff spotlight:

Help Desk Analyst, Miriam Jimenez

Title V's Help Desk Analyst, Miriam Jimenez, is another valuable addition to Mountain View's student resources, made possible through the Title V grant. Miriam, a former Mountain View student who holds an Associate Degree in Information Systems and is currently working on a Bachelor in Education at the University of North Texas, joined Mountain View's Title V department in September, 2002. Miriam's main objective at Mountain View is to enhance the learning process at MVC by providing software support in a variety of programs for students who must utilize computer technology in classes.

Each semester Miriam coordinates a series of workshops, held in the library, where she offers software training to students in various Microsoft Office programs. These workshops are held periodically throughout the fall and spring semesters. In addition to the workshops, she also visits numerous classrooms each semester where she provides classroom demonstrations with various software programs. Microsoft Power Point was the most requested software training this past fall semester, she said; however, she is available to help students with other MS Office programs, such as Word and Excel, eCampus, eConnect, and campus email services.

While much of her time is spent working with groups of students, Miriam is also happy to work with students one-on-one. She is bilingual and able to help any student who seeks her assistance. Students from Trio/Focus, ESL, and the Speech department are often referred to her, and she enjoys being able to give them individual attention and assist with whatever

“You are doing your job, but it feels good when someone comes back and says ‘Thanks for helping me; I did well!’”



Miriam Jimenez, Title V Help Desk Analyst

they need. “Sometimes they come in and say ‘I don’t know anything about computers.’ So I’ll teach them how to use email or how to create a basic document,” she said.

Miriam finds her job very rewarding and hopes to continue working with college students in the future, even after finishing her own education. “I enjoy helping students,” she said. “It feels good to be able to teach someone something, especially when a student comes back and says, ‘Thank you for your help! I got an A in my class!’ That feels great!”

Be on the lookout for upcoming spring semester Title V workshops. Also, Miriam encourages Mountain View faculty to contact her about doing classroom visits, and encourages students to seek her out in the library; she can often be found at the Reference Desk during the morning hours. For more information, or to schedule a classroom visit, contact Miriam at 8886 or mxj6482@dccd.edu.

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LSC hours:
 Mon.-Thur. - 8am-9pm
 Fri. - 8am-2pm
 Sat. - 8am-5pm
 Sun. - 1pm-5pm

For questions or
 comments regarding
 MVC Title V Tidbits,
 please contact Melanie
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Title V Calendar of Events

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Happy New Year! 1
LSC re-opens 8am 3	4	5	6	Winter Term ends 7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15
17	Spring Term begins 18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29
31					

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Workshop: <i>Adding & subtracting fractions</i> 4-5pm 1	Workshop: <i>Multiplying & dividing fractions</i> 1-2pm 2	Workshop: <i>Decimals</i> 8-9pm 3	4	5
Workshop: <i>Percents</i> 8-9pm 7	Workshop: <i>Adding & subtracting polynomials</i> 4-5pm 8	9	Workshop: <i>Writing 5- paragraph essays</i> 8-9pm 10	11	Workshop: <i>Multiplying & dividing polynomials</i> 4-5pm 12
Happy Valentine's Day 14	Workshop: <i>Main ideas & supporting details</i> 4-5pm 15	Workshop: <i>Factoring</i> 1-2pm 16	17	18	Workshop: <i>Geometry</i> 4-5pm 19
21	Workshop: <i>Multiplying & dividing rational expressions</i> 11am-12pm 22	Workshop: <i>Fragments, run-ons, & comma splices</i> 1-2pm 23	Workshop: <i>Adding & subtracting rational expressions</i> 8-9pm 24	25	26
28					