ABSTRACT OF SABBATICAL LEAVE PROPOSALS
(A total of 5 faculty have applied for leave for the 2009-2010 year)

Christine Arfwedson, Professor of Nursing, 100% Academic Year, 2009-2010. Formal study, self-directed study.

Professor Arfwedson plans to update and her knowledge and pedagogical skills in her core teaching areas of Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Community-Based Nursing, and Nutrition. She will accomplish these objectives by studying the most recent periodical and internet research, visiting health care sites to observe current nursing practice, and completing formal coursework. She will study and learn the newest methods of media use to enhance and update her existing lessons.

Steve Berklite, Professor of Automotive Mechanical Repair; 100% Academic year 2009-2010, Formal and self-directed study.

Professor Berklite will dedicate his sabbatical leave to three areas of interest. The first is advanced study of automotive technology. This will be accomplished by taking coursework at local manufacturer training centers in the latest technology. The second goal will be visitations to automotive training programs to observe teaching techniques and presentation methods to include electronic self-paced instruction. This will allow implementation of these techniques into the college classroom to help improve delivery and student understanding. The third goal is to visit automotive employers to verify that the course content that is added to the college curriculum is satisfying their needs and is of value to students. This leave will provide information that will advance the subject matter presented in the automotive department and enhance effective teaching practices to improve student learning outcomes and success.

Bill McFadden, Professor of Mathematics. 100% Academic year 2009-1010. Research and self-directed study.

Professor McFadden will do independent research on the various capabilities of the Texas Instruments graphing calculators and to create instructional materials for use by faculty and students in the classroom. Instructors are required to use graphing calculators in courses Trigonometry (Math 140), College Algebra (Math 114), Finite Math (Math 115), Statistics (Math 112), Business Calculus (Math 116), Pre-Calculus (Math 150), and Calculus (Math 170, 190, 220, 240). The graphing calculators included in the research are the TI-83 plus, TI-84 plus, TI-89, and TI-Nspire. He will also create instructional materials for the software package Maple to supplement and extend the graphics capabilities of the graphing calculators used in the courses listed above.
Cheryl Shimazu, Professor of Chemistry; 100% Academic year 2009-10, Self-directed study, formal course work, and travel.

Professor Cheryl Shimazu will be conducting surveys, interviews and observations of effective practices in the chemistry department to enhance learning and increase retention. She will have formal study in designing assessment tools, which will include techniques and strategies for designing student and faculty focus groups and pre and post assessment instruments.

In order to help revitalize and update her chemistry courses, Professor Shimazu will attend conferences in order to expand her knowledge of effective teaching practices and appropriate use of educational technology in the classroom. Her updated courses will include the new digital chemistry images and videos as well as digital links to online chemistry resources.

Finally, Professor Shimazu will travel to England, Germany and France for a historical perspective on Chemistry.

Bob Walther, Professor of Biology. 100% Academic year 2008-2009. Travel, research project, course revision, and instructor¹s guide development.

Professor Bob Walther’s sabbatical leave will feature travel in Europe to trace the footsteps of the pioneers of microbiology. His studies will take him to England, Scotland, France, Germany, and the Netherlands and will include organized visits to the outstanding biological museum and library collections of the world. His sabbatical year will also include a field study of a lake in Minnesota where he will monitor the lake for the presence of fecal contaminants. Mr. Walther’s sabbatical plans include visits to neighboring community colleges where he will explore ways of making the microbiology lab experience more relevant to student preparation in the health sciences. He also plans to complete an instructor¹s guide for use by faculty teaching Microbiology 200.