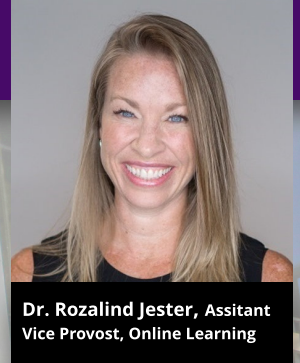


APRIL 23, 2021



Connect Collaborate Innovate

A Newsletter From The Provost's Office



Dr. Rozalind Jester, Assitant
Vice Provost, Online Learning

Invitation to Elevate Elearning

Next week nearly *one thousand* students will proudly take the stage to be honored as FSW graduates! The day will surely be filled with invitations asking the special people who helped them to reach this milestone to share in the festivities. There will be joyful tears, laughter, hugs and parties galore. There will also be the inescapable questions about "what's next?" and a day many big dreams will be born.

In light of this year's seemingly endless challenges, every single accomplishment came with an extra-sweet sense of satisfaction! So this is also a time for

faculty, staff and administrators to celebrate and reflect on our collective achievements.

In that spirit, I offer you this newsletter as an invitation to join me in a new initiative to *Elevate Elearning*. We will honor what we have learned from students past and present so we may better serve those that look to us for a brighter future. I believe that we can effect meaningful change through collaboration and community building as we have demonstrated this year. Let's create space to share bold ideas, engage in candid dialogue, and work towards a culture of continuous improvement.

You're Invited

FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN

ELEVATE
ELEVATE
ELEVATE

Elearning at FSW

DATE: May 12, 2021

TIME: 2:00 - 3:00 PM

PLACE: Virtual Meeting

RSVP: Rozalind Jester at
rjester@fsw.edu

Learn more about the Elevate Elearning Initiative at the informational launch meeting and get your questions answered

Seeking participants for Summer and Fall 2021. Faculty and student stipends offered. Faculty up to \$3000 | Students up to \$1000

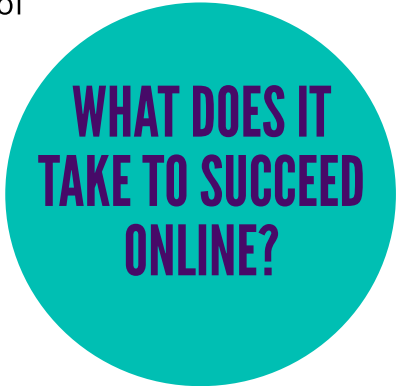
THE VISION

Beginning in Summer 2021, the *Elevate Elearning Initiative* will convene with the purpose of creating an innovative experience for online students in which they will build the skills that directly support their academic success.

The motivation for this initiative stems from the work of the *Innovate Instruction Initiative (I3)* task force, which identified student preparation for online coursework as a critical need. Additional feedback was shared by faculty at the Provost's open forums that indicated the desire for FSW to offer or require "student training" before taking online courses to ensure they have the skill set needed and are aware of the expectations necessary to succeed online.

With these ideas in mind the *Elevate Elearning* task force will collaborate to create an experience for students that is designed to:

- Increase student's digital literacy skills
- Create opportunities for students to develop a growth mindset through self-reflection
- Increase awareness of support services available to online students (academic, technical, and health and wellness)
- Provide guidance for (1) navigating the online classroom in Canvas, (2) preparing for remote proctoring and (3) using other digital tools common in online instruction
- Establish expectations for participation in courses with online instruction
- Create a community of online students, faculty, and support staff
- Create a "one-stop shop" for online student resources



**WHAT DOES IT
TAKE TO SUCCEED
ONLINE?**

TASK FORCE

The Provost's Office is seeking to recruit a dynamic team to represent our diverse online community:

- Online faculty from each academic school
- Academic Technology Committee
- Faculty and students with digital design and audio-video production skills
- Information Technology
- Faculty Librarians
- Current FSW online students
- Faculty, staff and administrators with a passion for online education and student advocacy

In doing this work, we will be realizing the College's mission by *advancing a world-class education and innovating online and distance education*. As we enter a new era of teaching and learning at FSW we will have an opportunity to...

Reimagine how to achieve the College's mission by responding to what students' value and what they choose.

Reimagine how to engage students and ensure our student services add value to academic programs with the goal of accessibility and efficiency.

Reimagine how to elevate employees into a culture of change centered on student success and achievement.

If anything you read here strikes a chord and you think the *Elevate Elearning Initiative* is for you, please send me an email to express your interest, ask a question or share an idea. A follow up meeting invitation will be sent to those who "RSVP" for the festivities. Let's do this!

In closing, thank you for "showing up" to do the hard work that it took to get through a trying academic year! I see you and I am inspired by your dedication. I know that each of you have changed lives *daily* simply by demonstrating the growth mindset necessary to teach, work and learn in new environments; the mental fortitude required to endure uncertainty, change, and stress; and the patience, compassion and grace it takes to become a stronger and more resilient community of educators! Summer is right around the corner... may yours be fabulous!



Dr. Rozalind Jester has a doctorate in Ocean Science and, like most UC Santa Cruz alumni, is a proud Banana Slug. She joined FSW as faculty in 2008, served as Director, eLearning 2017-2020 and recently joined the Provost's Office as AVP, Online Learning. In this role she looks forward to collaborating with faculty and staff to support innovative online teaching and learning at FSW. She has a mild obsession with jigsaw puzzles.

Reach out via email: Rozalind.Jester@fsw.edu

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