PART 1 - SYNTHESIS

Instructor Designer position for a community college in California

Instructional Designer

Job Description:
The instructional designer is responsible for supporting the development of online and blended learning courses. The instructional designer will also provide support and expertise for online and blended learning faculty and related programs.

Duties and Responsibilities:
-Assist faculty in creating and developing content for online and blended learning courses

-Conduct ongoing professional development in all facets of online and blended learning teaching including pedagogy and emerging technologies

-Provide faculty support for technology and all areas related to online and blended learning

-Provide technical support and training in the school's learning management system

-Evaluate and provide relevant recommendations to course changes as it applies to department and institutional learning outcomes

-Collaborate with various administrative, faculty and district-level stakeholders (including Deans, Distance Learning Coordinator, and relevant Committees) to execute the school Technology Plan

Minimum Qualifications/Skills:
-Master's Degree in Instructional Design, Educational Technology, Online Teaching or related field

-5 years of experience working with college faculty in designing and developing content for online/blended learning environments

-Extensive knowledge and experience working with major learning management systems (Moodle, Blackboard, etc.)

-Experience with various educational technologies including html coding, multimedia, and web design/layout

-Knowledge and emerging technologies

-Excellent written and oral communication skills

-Strong organizational skills and attention to detail

-Ability to work collaboratively with faculty and staff at the college and district level

Desirable Qualifications/Skills:
-Online and/or blended learning teaching experience at the college level

-Experience conducting training or professional development workshops

-Project-Management experience

PART 2 – REFLECTION

As a history instructor in the community college classroom, my main objective is to get students ready to transfer to a four year university. This broad scope includes following the department curriculum as well as implementing and evaluating student learning outcomes. While there are considerable levels of academic freedom depending on what institution you are at, there is a general core set of competencies and standards that must be articulated in the classroom. My role as the teacher is to execute this plan of action in my lectures, curriculum, coursework, etc. Aside from the academic role I play, sometimes there are social elements involved. The intricacies of classroom management, whether online or the typical brick-and-mortar classroom, is an integral part of what the teacher's job description. At times I must act as guidance counselor, social worker, and even assisting students with financial aid issues. Although the instructional designer may have a notion about core competencies and student learning outcomes, they generally do not worry about the day-to-day activities that a teacher in a classroom faces.

Although a small part of my work as a teacher may involve elements of instructional design, I do not have actual experience as an instructional designer. My basis comes from what I know of instructional design up to this point. Be as it may, the instructional designer is responsible for the development and evaluation of instructional material based on various scientific and theoretical foundations for teachers to implement in their course. Designers create and assist in the implementation of course material. While teachers certainly want to play a role in the evaluation process of material and technology, the designer uses that data to alter, revise, and improve the instructional material.

One major difference between the teacher and instructional designer is their primary duties and responsibilities. The teacher is not only charged with implementing the course standards and

curriculum in an effective manner but also managing their students on a daily basis. The instructional designer is responsible for designing and developing content and material for the teachers to use in their classroom. Secondly, the typical classroom teacher would not be involved with professional development and training of other faculty/staff. The instructional designer plays an important role in providing technical support and assisting teachers with this content material and technology. Finally, teachers deal with students on a daily basis and are intimately connected with their students' academic and sometimes social progress. The instructional designer may deal with students but generally in a secondary capacity (e.g. student data for evaluation purposes). Otherwise, designers would not have daily interaction with students in the classroom.

PART 3 – JOB POSTING LINKS

Instructional Design Specialist: https://chroniclevitae.com/jobs/0000893094-01

Instructional Designer: http://www.clinton.edu/hr/JobView.aspx?jid=64403

Instructional Designer: http://tinyurl.com/qxfjs7z

Instructional Designer III: http://tinyurl.com/nzs2o6c