

Faculty Professional Growth Summer Project Final Report Draft

Use this Word template to compose your responses to questions that are part of the new online summer project application form, and take advantage of spell checking. You can then cut and paste this to the online system.

Do not bother with fancy formatting as none is preserved in the online form.

Summer Project Title

Summer Project: Learning About Digital Information and Imaging Systems at Maricopa Medical Center,

Submitted by Kathleen Murphy, GWCC

Abstract

Write a concise summary with descriptive information about your project, location, time span, your relationship to it, etc. Include specific information-- since you have completed your project, your knowledge is valuable and can be shared with your colleagues (200 word limit).

The purpose of this project was to master the operation of a hospital based Patient Archiving and Communication System (PACS). I worked from May - July 2004 and learned how to acquire, sort and prepare a variety of case studies both normal and those with pathology. I was able to work at Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, Phoenix, Arizona. I received permission from the Director of Diagnostic Imaging to work in the Radiology Department where they have a state of the art digital acquisition system (PACS) that is implemented hospital wide including ten outlying clinics throughout Phoenix. This system can send and receive images in digital format to departments and MD's throughout their health care system.

This advanced PACS system can be found at only a few sites in the state and Maricopa allowed me complete access to create and collect images from their site; remove sensitive patient information; and store cases on CD ROM for use in our classes. I was also invited to attend their employee training and orientation sessions. In addition they helped me coordinate a field trip this summer for the students who are currently enrolled in the Ultrasound Program at GWCC to view this PACS system firsthand.

Outcomes

In a paragraph or two describe what worked well. Did you accomplish your objective(s)? Were you able to complete your summer project as written? If not, what did you modify and why? What did not go as well as expected, if anything? Were there any surprises? **Note: Use the questions as guides for your outcomes. Do not include detailed list of workshops attended, speakers who presented, or a list of items you have seen, heard, or read.**

The project went as planned according to the time line. And for the most part and I was able to complete my objectives. The set backs that occurred were that I was working in a real life trauma center where things happen at a moment's notice. If you had planned to gather images on a particular day, it may or may not have been possible because of the workload. I found this to be exciting because I gained a real appreciation for what really goes on in a busy Diagnostic Imaging Dept on a daily basis. The people who provided me with PACS training and guidance were very accommodating and gracious because they are actively involved in training our students and were aware that we would be implementing our own PACS system at the college in August.

Professional Growth

Your own professional growth is a large part of your project. Your professional growth is important to you, your students, your college, and possibly other colleagues. How did project affect you professionally? What skills did you learn? What environments were you working in and how might your summer project influence your teaching or other responsibilities? Did you gain a different perspective? Was it professionally valuable for you?

My professional growth is that now feel comfortable with PACS from the gathering of data, storing of data and images, and creating images in a digital environment. The professionalism of the staff and their ability to work in very tense situations gathering images that would ultimately be stored on the PACS system in order to be read by the Radiologist was a real eye opener to me.

We train our students in Diagnostic Imaging to work in these settings and it is refreshing to know that their mentors who are training them are skilled individuals. All the members of Diagnostic Imaging work together: CT, Ultrasound Nuclear Medicine, and Radiology to serve the patients. We try and foster that same collaboration at the college. Now I will have a better concept and understanding of what takes place in the other areas of Diagnostic Imaging.

Dissemination

How will you share this information with your colleagues, department, students, or campus?

We have just installed a PACS system at GWCC and I have attended training. It was refreshing to attend a training session and understand the terminology, and ins and outs of a PACS system. I was able to complete my summer project to master a PACS system and that was a major goal of mine.

Our next steps are to train our Diagnostic Imaging students on our PACS system in each of the imaging modalities. We will be creating Ultrasound images in the lab at GWCC and sending and storing them on our PACS system. All imaging programs will store and share images. We are planning to make these digital images available for other Health Programs. We will also be offering a seminar for students and others interested in PACS in spring 2005 because there is a demand for this type of training.

Thank you for the opportunity to learn and grow this summer.