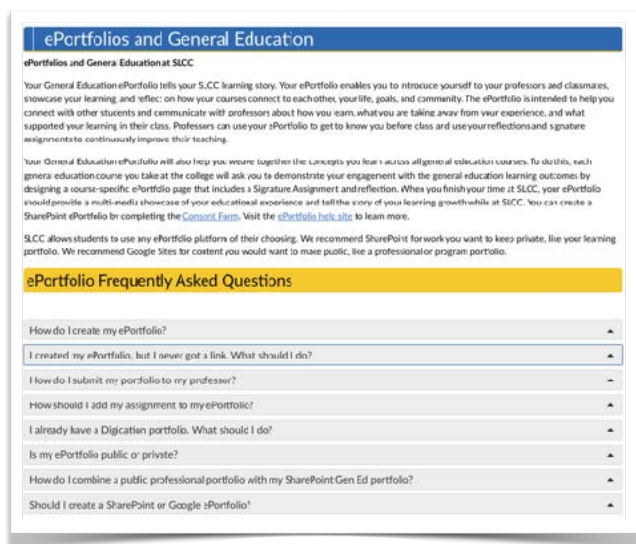


# STEAL THIS NEWSLETTER

The Word on the Street from the Office of Learning Advancement

## ePortfolio Canvas Commons Modules Get a Makeover



Happy New Year! We just wrapped up our first semester with SharePoint as our new FERPA-protected ePortfolio platform. We have had great feedback from both students and faculty regarding ease of use, gratitude for the undo and version history resources, and ways we can continue to improve support to ePortfolio users.

We are excited to share new and improved Canvas Commons modules that you can import directly into your courses. They feature a designation overview created by faculty who teach in the designation, a page explaining ePortfolios and General Education, a Welcome page assignment, and an Explaining General Education Module Quiz. You can import the entire module or import just a

single page based on your goals for integrating ePortfolio this semester.

The “ePortfolios and General Education” page (image above) may be especially beneficial to you. It includes the standard ePortfolio syllabus statement along with a list of frequently asked ePortfolio questions to help your students navigate the transition from DigiCation to SharePoint for their FERPA protected content. It also includes information about how to create a public-facing Professional Google Site portfolio for students who are excited about their Signature Assignments and want to share their creations publicly.

Alternatively, you can just import the ePortfolio Welcome Page assignment for your General Education course and use that instead of the Welcome page that is now preloaded into all Canvas Courses. This will still help you overcome the pesky student-bot issue, get your students started with ePortfolio so they aren’t scrambling at the end of the semester, and create an early touch point between you and your students. We preloaded the ePortfolio syllabus statement and the FAQs into the Welcome page assignment so that you can have everything in one place.

Ready to get started with one of the modules but not sure how to import them? We have you covered with instructions here. The ePortfolio Team wishes you a wonderful term start, and we are here to help if you have any questions or want to schedule an in-class ePortfolio workshop.

—Emily Thompson

## Faculty Spotlight: David Robles



David Robles

David Robles, an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Salt Lake Community College, is a multifaceted, inspiring faculty member committed to both academia and community service. Specializing in criminology, victimology, and justice studies, Robles also serves on the Unified Police Department Mobile Crisis Response Team, offering victim services in cases such as domestic violence, rape, suicide, homicide, child neglect, and abuse. As a Squad Leader with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Mountain Search & Rescue Team, he collaborates with law enforcement units. Robles also advocates for victims' rights through his affiliation with The National Center for Victims of Crime.

David's commitment to making a difference, and specifically addressing oppression and racial subjugation, led him to pursue a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and a Master's in Community Leadership. He plans to continue his education by starting his PhD in the Fall of 2024.

David brings his real-world experiences to his classes, where he makes a conscious effort to be proactive and accommodating to his students. He jokingly said during our interview, "...there is a cliché to change students'

lives as an educator. But for me, it's how they continue to change mine that inspires me." David is always looking for ways to learn from his students and improve their experience in his classroom. "The students at SLCC bring such a depth of experience and knowledge into the classroom. It is up to us to give them an empowered platform and path towards growth."

David finds inspiration for his class lectures from mentors and historical intellectuals like James Baldwin. However, the delivery of his lectures is inspired by comedians. To him, comedians are experts at taking hard subjects and delivering them well. He stated, "...in the class we could be talking about horrific crimes that leave the students in an emotional state. Yes, it's important to teach this, but I also have a duty to make sure my students are okay when they leave my class." Comedy is a good remedy, especially when delivered well.

When David is not teaching or attending committee meetings, you can find him in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (ODMA), the Student Center, or the ePortfolio lab. These environments allow him to form deeper connections with his students outside of office hours and in the spaces where they feel most comfortable. In these informal spaces, students often unpack topics and disclose barriers that they face within their class. David makes a positive impact by assisting his students to overcome the barriers they share.

Looking ahead to Spring 2024, Robles will be collaborating on an exciting new Ethnic Studies course, Targeted Identities, with Dr. Cindy Fierros. The course will help students examine mass incarceration in the United States through a gender and racial lens. Additionally, he is working on victimology redevelopment, introducing victim-based training that can provide students with a national certification.

David expressed special thanks to Associate Dean Cecile Delozier, Dr. Dalia Salloum, Dr. Emmanuel Santa-Martinez, Dr. Carolina Bloem, Senior Associate Dean James Singer, Stephanie Hoffman, Julia Ellis, Antonette Gray, Emily Thompson, Dr. Cindy Fierros, and Dr. Anthony Nocella. He believes that these folx are truly genuine, authentic, and inspiring.

—Kemone Carby-Feleti

## Staff Spotlight: Hanna Jane “HJ” Morrell

Hanna Jane Morrell is a Specialist with Salt Lake Community College’s (SLCC) Prison Education Program (PEP). Her first day was November 16, 2023. Originally from Augusta, Georgia, HJ received bachelor’s degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice from Georgia College and State University, which is Georgia’s designated public liberal arts university. She enjoyed her experience there so much that she decided to stay. She worked for the Women’s Center & LGBTQ+ Programs as a Graduate Assistant and obtained her master’s degree in Criminal Justice.



H J Morrell exploring Utah.

Morrell’s educational background and skills are a great match for our Prison Education Program. She’s a systems thinker with a strong passion for helping people overcome barriers to educational attainment. In high school, she felt othered by her high school due to her struggle with lupus and had to effectively teach herself while on “homebound” status. She then switched to a private school and earned her high school diploma. The whole experience “sparked a passion in me to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.” For a time, she worked as a 911 dispatcher for her local sheriff’s office. Immediately before coming to SLCC, HJ was a coordinator and women’s success coach at Utah Valley University’s Women’s Success Center, where she helped boost women’s enrollment and persistence as well as helped to raise money for scholarships. Aside from making her own positive impact on our Prison Education Program, HJ is looking forward to applying to law school.

Through her education in Criminal Justice, Hanna Jane knows that when incarcerated people lack resources and supportive programming while serving their sentences, they struggle to gain a positive foothold upon release. She says:

*Whether it’s mental health treatment or higher education, programming opportunities help inmates to make a real change in their lives. The PEP is an absolute game changer when it comes to prisoners obtaining the skills to be productive citizens when they leave prison and return to the greater Utah society. Each student I have met in the program is truly grateful for the opportunity to learn and broaden their perspectives while in the prison. For example, we had a student who had their son start college on the “outside” just because of the conversations the student had with their son about the PEP.*

If you see her on campus, welcome HJ to SLCC and get to know her. She and her partner have season tickets for the Utah Grizzlies. They have a dog named Peach, who loves to go on hikes. HJ is a podcast aficionado and some of her favorites include Sexy Unique Podcast, Armchair Expert, and Status Check with Spivey!

—David Hubert

## SLCC's Prison Program Receives Award

On November 9th, Salt Lake Community College's Prison Education Program received a Corrections Champion Award from the Department of Corrections. The award recognizes our Prison Education Program's collaboration with Corrections to "improve people's lives and enhance community safety."

This Spring semester, over 200 students are taking classes from SLCC at the Utah State Prison. In addition to offering the General Education certificate of completion, SLCC also awards full associate's degrees. We are working with the University of Utah on 2 + 2 partnerships that will allow students to obtain bachelor's degrees as well.

David Bokovoy, Director of the Prison Education program, wants to highlight that the success of the program depends on the dedicated faculty, student affairs staff, and Corrections officers and staff who help us run an entire college operation in a context that is full of challenges and difficulties.



Chris Bradbury, David Bokovoy, and HJ Morrell with the Prison Education Program's Award.

## Kristi Green—SLCC's 2024 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer



Kristi Green

For Kristi Green, Associate Professor of Business, Salt Lake Community College is a beacon for diversity in how it supports marginalized communities in obtaining higher education. She sees this mission of inclusivity as a value that the college embraces daily.

Even so, Kristi notes there are still few Latinas in higher education leadership positions. As SLCC's Distinguished Faculty Lecturer for 2024, Kristi's lecture will focus on the 'counterstories' of Latinas working in higher education and how colleges can foster more inclusive environments. "Counterstorytelling is a method of recounting the experiences of the racially and socially marginalized," Kristi says.

In her eight years at SLCC, Kristi has taught courses on Entrepreneurship, Small Business and Management, among others. She holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture from the University of Utah, a Master of Business Administration from Independence University, and a PhD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Wyoming.

Dr. Green's Distinguished Faculty Lecture will be in the Taylorsville-Redwood Student Event Center on April 18th from 1-2:30pm.



## Honors Students and Staff Shine at NCHC in Chicago

SLCC Honors students and staff attended the National Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Honors Peer Mentors, Zach Johnson, Jevahjire France, Aylin Gutierrez and Jack Bohun, showcased their research titled “Walk the Talk: Rethinking Honors Education’s Core Practices.” The Honors Peer Mentors presented on the importance of the experiential learning, inclusivity, and interdisciplinary collaboration, with an aim of reshaping how honors programs are implemented at community colleges and universities.

The Honors Peer Mentors focused on the importance of student voices in the implementation process. They first reached out to students to share their stories through a survey. These surveys were designed to gather feedback on the experiences, needs, and challenges faced by students, especially those from underserved communities. The Peer Mentors sought to understand the barriers that students encounter in accessing and thriving in honors programs, such as socio-economic constraints, inclusivity issues, and needing academic support. By analyzing the data, the mentors aimed to identify key areas for

improvement and advocate for changes that would not only welcome students into honors programs but also ensure their success and sense of belonging. Their presentation sparked lively discussions among educators and administrators from across the country, many of whom expressed interest in implementing the student ideas at their institutions.



Michael Young, Jevahjire France, Aylin Gutierrez, Jack Bohun, Kiah Vance, Kathy Tran-Peters in Chicago

Kathy Tran-Peters, SLCC Honors Program Manager, and José Hernández Zamudio, Assistant Honors Dean at Westminster University, also led a workshop for a separate session titled "Honoring the Pathway: Addressing the Transfer Challenges Between Two- and Four-Year Institutions." The workshop's primary goal was to explore strategies for simplifying the transfer process for all honors students. They highlighted the existing barriers that

complicate this transition like inadequacy of cross-institutional relationships and support, which can lead to credit loss and stigma against community college education. They also shed light on the complexity of the transfer pathways and financial challenges. Furthermore, the disconnect between transfer students and the values, activities, and community in four-year honors programs often leads to feelings of alienation. The workshop offered an environment where participants could share personal experiences and perspectives. This collaborative approach helped to develop customized solutions that considered the unique challenges of each institution. Kathy and José hoped that educators and administrators would be inspired to reevaluate their policies, shifting towards more student-focused models that effectively address the challenges faced by transfer students.

—Kathy Tran-Peters