



Anna Cox

Kellogg Community College

Mathematics Journey with WebAssign® saves time, provides better service, and improves engagement and test scores

Challenges

- Community College instructor enjoys innovative technology tools, but was searching for one that would save time and help improve her students' understanding and test scores. She wanted one that supported her unique flipped hybrid teaching model, which relies on videos.

Solutions

- Mathematics Journey with WebAssign®

Results

- Positive student feedback, less time required of the instructor to create videos, and a 'thumbs up' on customer service combine into a great teaching and learning experience at Kellogg Community College.

For 28 years, Anna Cox has been teaching all levels of mathematics from numerical skills through calculus at Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek, Michigan. As an innovator always looking for new ways to use technology to engage students, Anna has taken a unique approach to teaching her courses. Anna's class is currently taught using what she describes as a "hybrid flipped" model. "Students watch videos and take notes on a worksheet that correspond to the videos I have created. I then do a quick summary [of the material] when they come into the classroom," she said. The majority of class time is devoted to problem solving. "We spend a lot of our class time with students at the white boards. I partner students and we work two problems together, and then one person will rotate and get a new partner. I call on individual students and have them talk through a problem they have written out on the board. This helps them listen and learn the mathematical terms and process," said Anna.

A needed change

Anna was frustrated by the lack of publisher support she received for the digital learning solution she used prior to Mathematics Journey with WebAssign. In search of a replacement, she attended the 2014 American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges with the intention of learning about new digital solutions. "I did a lot of focus groups with a lot of different companies and was really impressed with the [Mathematics Journey with WebAssign] product. I loved a lot of the features I saw and the price appealed to me," she said. After learning more about WebAssign, Anna decided to pilot it in her Intermediate Algebra course.

Positive student feedback

Once she began the pilot semester, Anna found Mathematics Journey with WebAssign was a natural fit for her hybrid flipped classroom. She also learned that WebAssign's WatchIt tutorial videos were especially helpful in regards to student comprehension. "[Students] loved the Watch It videos ... They weren't trying to read and interpret [the concepts] - they had someone telling them what was being stated," said Anna. Overall, Anna believes Journey with WebAssign helped



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increase student comprehension. “My students have always been highly engaged, but they are comprehending the content better,” she said. Part of Anna’s method is to create mini videos to explain problems and concepts that cause students to struggle. After piloting Journey with WebAssign, Anna noticed a significant decrease in the number of videos she had to create. “I have very few questions students have asked since piloting Mathematics Journey with WebAssign. Because the videos are built in, I’m finding I have to make my own very rarely. That’s been wonderful,” said Anna.

In addition to positive student feedback, Anna was very pleased with the support she received from Cengage. “I have been very impressed with Cengage’s service. I have my own tech guru that I can email when I need anything. The service has been amazing,” said Anna.

Improved student outcomes

In the two semesters she’s been piloting Mathematics Journey with WebAssign, Anna has seen a significant difference in student outcomes. “Department finals were higher than they have been in a long time. I think that’s a direct result of Journey with WebAssign,” said Anna. She is looking forward to Kellogg Community College fully adopting Mathematics Journey with WebAssign starting in the Fall 2015 semester.



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