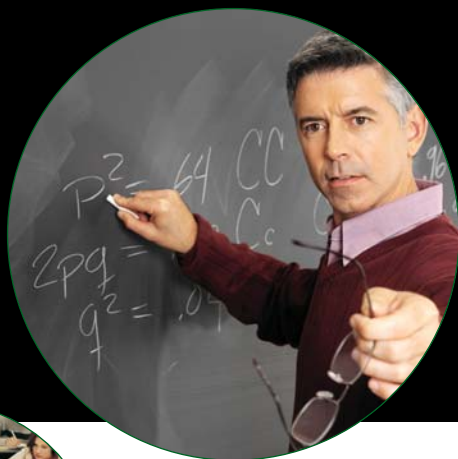


Class Climate Success Story

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE



Background

California State University, Northridge is a comprehensive university, offering around 6,000 classes (excluding extension classes) per term, to a student body of about 34,000. Approximately 3,900 faculty and staff support the students. The university is recognized as one of the leading institutions in teacher preparation in California and the nation.

The faculty contract requires that instructors be evaluated at least once each year. Each department determines how many classes will be evaluated for each instructor. Between 70,000 and 100,000 evaluation forms are produced each term.

"This was the shortest period of time that it has ever taken the campus to complete the course/faculty evaluations—and it was only our first time using Class Climate. We are very happy that we purchased the Class Climate system and happily recommend it to others."

Daveen Kay, Project Manager, California State University, Northridge

Success Story

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

**Challenge Making the transition from paper to online faculty evaluations.**

Cal State has approximately 80 different evaluation forms that are used to evaluate instructors in 60 separate academic departments. They had never conducted an online evaluation, mainly because most members of the faculty were skeptical that there would be an acceptable response rate. "Our Faculty Senate accepted the notion that we should explore the concept of conducting these evaluations online," says Daveen Kay, Project Manager, California State University, Northridge.

Their previous faculty evaluation software was a home-grown program which ran on an IBM® mainframe. In December 2003, the mainframe computer was removed, leaving them searching for new evaluation software.

While evaluating other products, they considered outsourcing the offerings of several other colleges, as well as a couple of local service vendors. "We were immediately impressed by Class Climate, because (1) our academic departments each insisted on controlling the sets of questions posed for the classes in their departments and (2) our Faculty Senate insisted that we have an easy way to transition from paper forms to online questionnaires in the future.

Solution Class Climate completes the job in record time.

In February 2005, after viewing a demonstration, the Cal State campus became a Class Climate customer, for the purpose of conducting the faculty evaluation for that semester. The equipment and software were installed in February, all 80 evaluation templates were created on the system in March and over 70,000 paper evaluation forms were printed before April 1st. The Spring semester evaluation was largely conducted using paper evaluation forms. They also conducted a pilot of online evaluations for six instructors. The evaluations are typically conducted close to the end of the semester. According to Kay, "All the evaluations were completed, returned, and scanned over a three-week period and the evaluation summary reports were printed and distributed to each department. This was the shortest period of time that it has ever taken the campus to complete the course/faculty evaluations – and it was only our first time using Class Climate."

Results An easy transition to online with Class Climate.

Cal State recently launched another new project using Class Climate. Each semester, they must evaluate the field and classroom work of all teaching candidates. Evaluations were previously administered using paper forms. Starting this semester, they will be conducted online using Class Climate software. "The ease with which we can develop new evaluation forms and modify system processes is what has enabled us to quickly deploy this technology to our advantage," says Kay. She adds, "We have been able to easily work with this product and Scantron has been more than willing to incorporate most of our many suggestions into the newest release of their software." Forms creation is now user-friendly, click and drag, regardless of the types of questions asked. The relative effortlessness in performing these evaluations with Class Climate has given Cal State the flexibility to grow both paper and online evaluation programs into the future.

Are you wondering how Scantron's Class Climate can help your organization?

For more information, please visit
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