Rosetta Stone Prepares Alamance Community College Students for Future Success

Alamance Community College

- www.alamancecc.edu
- 5,000 students
- Two-year college
- Graham, NC

About Alamance Community College

Established in 1958 as part of a statewide system of industrial education centers throughout North Carolina, Alamance Community College (ACC) has grown into a vibrant two-year college offering associate degrees in a diverse range of subjects. ACC is committed to responding to the changing needs in the area and, in response to the many new employment opportunities for technically trained personnel, the college seeks to provide its 5,000 enrolled adult educational students with the opportunity to develop their potential.

Challenge

In recent years, ACC saw a rise in local jobs for multilingual candidates, but a burgeoning number of adults in their continuing education programs had limited or no ability in the English language. ACC sought to ensure that all students received the opportunity to become proficient in both Spanish and English in order to help these individuals prepare for the real world.

Solution

As a vocational institution, ACC's primary goal is to train its students for success in their chosen career path. In an effort to accomplish this goal and bring both the school's foreign language instruction and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs to the next level, ACC invested in software that would introduce cutting-edge technology and individualized language learning into their classrooms for the first time. With the launch of the program in Fall 2009, Rosetta Stone® Classroom has become a central part of ACC's Spanish classes and ESL programs, providing an immersive and personalized learning experience to their students, faculty and staff.

Results

In just the first few months, ACC teachers and students have seen overwhelming success from Rosetta Stone Classroom. Students taking Spanish classes are gaining language skills much faster than before, allowing professors to augment their usual instruction with more in depth lessons and activities. Additionally, teachers of the ESL program have credited the software's unique voice-recognition technology with the unparalleled improvement in student pronunciation and word acquisition. The program has been so successful that ACC plans to make other languages available in the coming semester and provide all students with access to Rosetta Stone Classroom.

RosettaStone®

From Personal Experience to Classroom Excellence

After personally experiencing the benefits of Rosetta Stone® Classroom, ACC's Director of Information Services, Kumar Lakhavani, decided that the school's foreign language programs would benefit from integrating the immersive and interactive technology into its classrooms.

Mr. Lakhavani convinced ACC President, Dr. Martin Nadleman, Ph.D., that the software would help better prepare students for their future. Rosetta Stone Classroom was introduced into five ESL and two Spanish language classrooms in January 2009 under Clara Vega, the head of ACC's Humanities Department.
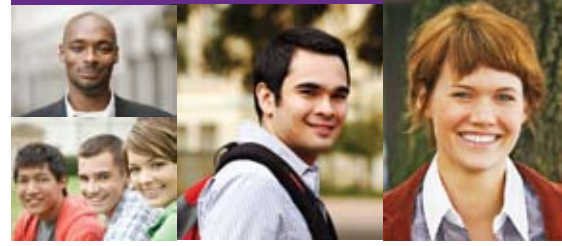
Freedom for Both Teachers and Students

As soon as the classes began using the software, students immediately experienced the freedom to learn based on their own comfort level and the ability to continue their practice outside the classroom walls. Professor Vega explained that with Rosetta Stone Classroom, "Students set their own pace and can move forward on their own time, according to their skills and individual needs."

Within months, students using the software had outpaced the scheduled curriculum and advanced beyond teachers' expectations. "Teachers were astonished by how quickly the students began to love the software, but most were impressed by how steep the students' learning curve became once they were practicing with Rosetta Stone Classroom," said Mr. Lakhavani.

In the ESL classrooms, students had an extremely positive experience. "By far the most welcoming surprise since the beginning of the program is the great improvement students have made in perfecting English pronunciation because of Rosetta Stone," said Mr. Lakhavani. "It had been almost impossible for teachers to break through thick accents with traditional methods, but the interactive nature of the program, voice capabilities and mind associations have finally given the students the keys to pronunciation success."

As more students engaged with the Rosetta Stone Classroom solution, teachers noticed that they too were discovering additional freedom in their classroom. Mr. Lakhavani explained that, "Teachers now have more time to teach their own lessons and personally interact with their students." With additional classroom time, teachers at ACC are introducing more advanced and interactive activities into their curricula.

Next Steps

Although currently limited to Spanish and English learning, ACC expects to extend Rosetta Stone Classroom to other languages that might also improve students' career prospects. ACC also plans on incorporating Rosetta Stone into its 50th anniversary celebration this year by offering free access to students and alumni who attend and want to try out the software for the first time.

About Rosetta Stone Classroom

Rosetta Stone Classroom is a powerful learning tool that blends seamlessly into a teacher's overall language-learning curriculum. Features such as speech analysis tools, grammar and spelling components, along with predefined course templates effectively complement classroom teaching expertise. Rosetta Stone Classroom provides the support teachers need with Rosetta Stone Manager, a built-in management tool that delivers real-time reporting capabilities, details on student progress and user-friendly administrative functionalities. The software offers flexible license solutions that are tailored to meet a school's specific needs, technology environments and requirements. Available in more than 30 different languages, Rosetta Stone Classroom affords teachers the opportunity to entrust critical language skill development to the software so that invaluable classroom time can be focused on topic-based activities that bring language learning to life.

"Students set their own pace and can move forward on their own time, according to their skills and individual needs."

Clara Vega
Head of the Humanities and
Fine Arts Department
Alamance Community College

"Teachers were impressed by how steep the students' learning curve became once they were practicing with Rosetta Stone Classroom."

Kumar Lakhavani
Director of Information Services
Alamance Community College

To speak to a language-learning consultant about the right solution for your school, please contact us.

(800) 811-2819
RosettaStone.com/schools