

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE TEACHING WITH ATLAS

California State University campuses use ATLAS online video case studies to set teacher candidates up for success in diverse classroom settings.

Though the approach to teacher preparation at the California State University (CSU) varies based on the needs of student populations across its 23 campuses, each school shares a common goal—to prepare engaged and reflective educational leaders who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to ensure equity and excellence in instruction for today’s P-12 students in an increasingly multicultural, technologically complex, and global community.

This vision goes hand-in-hand with a commitment to innovation, which led CSU faculty on four campuses to introduce the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards’ ATLAS (Accomplished Teaching, Learning, and Schools)[®] resource. An online library of authentic video cases, ATLAS provides real-world examples of National Board Certified Teachers at work in their classrooms. Faculty at CSU Fullerton, CSU Stanislaus, CSU Northridge, and San Jose State University have used ATLAS cases in their teacher preparation courses to supplement other examples of pedagogy, as well as field observation.

Within CSU, we place significant emphasis on high-quality clinical preparation that enables future teachers to see and emulate excellent instructional practices. National Board Certified Teachers represent exemplars across disciplines, grade levels, and contexts, and we value learning from their expertise.
—Marquita Grenot-Scheyer, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Teacher Education and Public School Programs, the CSU Office of the Chancellor



I knew that the ATLAS videos, supporting commentaries and ancillary attachments would be a great asset for teaching candidates. The ability to watch the videos and have access to the commentaries makes it significantly easier for teacher candidates to learn important teaching strategies without having to navigate all the hurdles of arranging classroom observations at schools.
—Scott C. Cooper, NBCT, Adjunct Professor, CSU Northridge

We are nationally recognized for the diversity of our students, but the real pride we feel is knowing how that diversity enriches the student educational experience. ATLAS provides an easy-to-use resource for faculty seeking to expose their teacher candidates to diverse classroom examples, specifically tailored to their curricular needs, without placing an undue burden on faculty or students.
—Dr. Lisa Kirtman, Dean, College of Education, CSU Fullerton

Providing Exceptional and Accessible Teacher Preparation

Given the rigor of recently adopted curriculum standards in California and the significant proportion of English Language Learners (ELLs) in California's public school classrooms, ATLAS provides a rich resource for supporting teachers—future and current—in developing and deepening their instructional skills to meet the needs of all learners.

The CSU strives to offer a wide range of learning experiences for teacher candidates that go beyond the textbook to create open and accessible learning communities. Faculty are constantly striving to find, test and implement innovative and effective ways to prepare all types of educators. ATLAS provides essential resources that not only demonstrate accomplished teaching in action, but also reveal the thinking behind instruction and how experienced teachers respond to and engage with their students in practice.

The way that ATLAS is indexed by teaching frameworks, subject areas, grade levels, and more is helpful in that we can easily find cases that are directly related to what we're discussing and have access to visual examples of a wide range of teaching styles and strategies.

—David Whitenack, Associate Professor and Graduate Coordinator, San Jose State University

Ensuring Diversity in Classroom Experiences and Resources

As the nation's largest and most affordable public four-year university system and one of the most diverse, the CSU system educates the majority of California's teachers and nearly 8 percent of educators nationwide. In doing so, CSU teacher prep programs play a crucial role in the education of each new generation of teachers and students. Many CSU faculty were drawn to ATLAS because they lacked clear, engaging examples of practice that portray both high-quality, standards-based teaching, and teaching for a variety of needs and backgrounds, such as ELLs and students with special needs. ATLAS enables teacher candidates to see a cross-section of both students and teachers with diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and challenges, and to analyze culturally and needs-responsive teaching in a wide range of classroom settings and instructional contexts.

One of the original reasons why I chose to use ATLAS in my classroom was I wanted my candidates to see not only groups of diverse students, but also diverse teachers—to see what those classrooms look like, and what those teaching-learning sequences look like and involve. ATLAS really allows that to happen...and supports my goal of developing teachers who care.

—Daniel Soodjinda, Associate Professor, CSU Stanislaus

The CSU and the National Board: Partners in Preparing Excellent Teachers

Every time you look for something in ATLAS you're going to walk away with something useful for your class.
—Deborah Cote, Associate Professor, CSU Fullerton

ATLAS is an integral resource for the CSU faculty cited in this case study in fulfilling their commitment to preparing knowledgeable, engaged, and reflective educational leaders who are ready to enter the classroom with innovative teaching strategies and a deep understanding of what accomplished teaching looks like in real-world environments.

CSU faculty use ATLAS to:

- Supplement classroom observations with video cases
- Demonstrate evidence-based practices
- Prepare pre-clinical teacher candidates for observation and practice
- Encourage rich discussion around equity and engaging diverse students
- Examine student-centered pedagogy
- Cultivate social-emotional learning practices
- Prepare teacher candidates to provide inclusive classroom environments
- Develop reflective and culturally responsive practitioners
- Provide examples of accomplished practice in most subjects, grades and school settings

To learn more about ATLAS, visit nbpts.org/ATLAS or email us at ATLAS@nbpts.org

To learn more about CSU's campus educator preparation programs, visit www.calstate.edu/teacherED/campus-programs.shtml

ATLAS

Accomplished Teaching, Learning and Schools®