

February 11, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide a report on my Fall 2025 sabbatical leave. I am grateful for the opportunity to dedicate sustained and focused time to advancing my scholarly and internationalization work. Although the primary book project outlined in my sabbatical proposal was not fully completed during the leave period, I made substantial and foundational progress that significantly strengthened the manuscript. In addition, I completed a peer-reviewed publication and advanced several international education, grant, and program development initiatives that align closely with the mission of Sonoma State University.

### **Primary Scholarly Focus: Book Manuscript Revision and Restructuring**

The central focus of my sabbatical was my contracted book project, *Understanding the Myths and Realities of White-Collar Crime*, co-authored with Dr. Diana R. Grant and under contract with Carolina Academic Press. The uninterrupted time afforded by sabbatical allowed me to step back from daily teaching and service responsibilities and evaluate the manuscript at a structural level.

During this process, Dr. Grant and I determined that the original organization of the book required substantial revision to improve clarity, thematic development, and accessibility for undergraduate readers. The manuscript initially consisted of six developed chapters. Through sustained review and restructuring during the sabbatical, I expanded and reorganized those six chapters into nine more clearly defined and conceptually focused chapters. This restructuring sharpened the thematic organization around the core myths of white-collar crime and improved the logical progression of arguments throughout the book.

In addition to restructuring the manuscript, I completely rewrote the first three chapters. These revisions strengthened the conceptual foundation of the text, improved narrative cohesion, and enhanced transitions between discussions of public misconceptions, regulatory frameworks, and the broader social harms associated with white-collar crime. Rather than incremental editing, this work required deep revision and rethinking of the manuscript's framing and flow. The sustained intellectual focus made possible by sabbatical leave was essential to accomplishing this level of structural and substantive improvement.

Although the manuscript remains in progress, the work completed during the sabbatical fundamentally strengthened the coherence, clarity, and long-term scholarly contribution of the

book. The restructuring has positioned the project for successful completion in accordance with our contractual obligations.

### **Peer-Reviewed Publication: CSU Global Action Journal**

During the sabbatical period, I completed and published a peer-reviewed article in the *CSU Global Action Journal* titled *Changing Perspectives in California: A Transformative Cultural Exchange for Stockholm University and Sonoma State University Criminology Students*. This article examines our 2024 Swedish exchange program, which hosted 16 criminology students from Stockholm University at Sonoma State University. The piece analyzes program design, student learning outcomes, comparative criminology perspectives, and institutional partnership development. It demonstrates how short-term, well-structured exchanges can broaden global understanding and deepen comparative analysis of justice systems. This publication contributes to scholarship on international education within the CSU system and highlights Sonoma State University's leadership in developing innovative global partnerships.

### **Grant Development and Internationalization Initiatives**

In Fall 2025, I co-developed and submitted a \$10,000 Gilman Pioneering Institution Grant proposal with Hope Ortiz. The proposal focuses on faculty capacity-building in short-term study abroad, Virtual Exchange (VE), and Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL), as well as enhancing student career readiness through global engagement.

If funded, the initiative would engage approximately 100 to 150 students during the 2026–2027 academic year and support 5 to 10 faculty members in developing internationally focused programming. This effort reflects a strategic commitment to scaling international education access and strengthening global competencies at Sonoma State University.

### **Study Abroad and Experiential Program Development**

During and immediately following the sabbatical, I developed two major experiential learning programs.

First, I developed a faculty-led Sweden–Denmark study abroad program in comparative criminology scheduled for June 2–14. The program includes academic site visits, comparative justice system analysis, and partnership engagement. It is likely to run and builds directly on existing international relationships.

Second, I developed a Washington, D.C. human rights experiential learning program. Although enrollment is unlikely in the current cycle, the curriculum, logistics, and academic structure are fully developed. This preparation allows the program to be efficiently offered in Winter or Summer 2027 without requiring significant redevelopment.

In addition, I partnered with Advancement to launch Fund It Forward campaigns to reduce student costs for both programs. These fundraising efforts are designed to expand access, reduce financial barriers, and promote equity in global experiential learning opportunities.

## **Conclusion**

The Fall 2025 sabbatical provided the sustained intellectual space necessary to engage in deep structural revision of a major book manuscript, complete and publish a peer-reviewed article, and advance multiple internationalization and program development initiatives. Although the book was not fully completed during the leave period, the progress achieved was substantial and foundational. The restructuring and rewriting undertaken during the sabbatical significantly strengthened the manuscript and positioned it for successful completion.

I am grateful for the institutional support that made this work possible. The outcomes of this sabbatical will continue to benefit Sonoma State University, our students, and our international partners in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Bryan Burton, PhD  
Associate Professor