



PASSchem - Student Research Partners

Transcript

00:00:01:03 - 00:00:07:10

Ananya: PASSchem Project Student Research Partners Interview.
Introduction

00:00:07:12 - 00:00:31:18

Ashlynn: Hi. So I'm Ashlynn and I've been in this project for about a year now working with Lindsay and Sharon. And my role initially when I started was to take the questions that were already in the LibreText and then write the solution using the template that they had made. And yeah. And then now Esther and I have worked from converting it from LibreText to Pressbooks.

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Esther: So my name is Esther and I'm in my third year majoring in chemical biology. And just as Ashlynn said she already made the solutions. And my job as I joined the project was to take those solutions and put them into the Pressbooks platform.

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Ashlynn: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And we've been friends since our first year. We met. We met in our first year and we're both majoring in the same thing. So it's been really it's been a really cool experience for both of us.

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Ananya: Have you encountered any challenges or limitations while you were working on this project? If so, what are they?

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Esther: Well, I'd say the only challenge I faced was because it wasn't really. It was a new platform. So just getting used to the pressbooks itself was challenging for me because it's coding and sometimes you make some mistakes and then you have to go in and it's like, oh, do I text first or do I just see if I can work it on myself? And then you try to do it yourself and everything just gets so messed up and you're like, oh my God. So yeah, that was most like my biggest challenge with this work. I think.

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Ashlynn: Yeah, I think along with what you said, it was really difficult to learn a new platform. and it's a lot better now that we kind of have a better understanding how to use it. And it's really helpful now. my biggest challenge, however, was probably in the very beginning because I, I didn't really trust myself, you know, you being in your first year, you just you just finish. You're like, do I really know how to do all these questions? And so my first few templates, I was

really emailing Lindsay and Sharon. I was like, do I know what I'm doing? Is this okay? And it wasn't until about the fourth or fifth template that I really got into the groove, and I was starting to have a lot of fun, and I felt comfortable with with my work and what I was doing.

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Ananya: What was her role in the development of this resource?

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Ashlynn: So they had set of a few set of questions, so about 60 questions. And I had taken those questions from the initial LibreText source, and then I had adapted them to the template that they had made, and I just started filling them out and making it based on the question, and how to shoot it best for the students when they're working through and, and explain things and provide links and everything. And then she joined in, probably about the winter semester, and then we started transferring it over from LibreText to Pressbooks. And we've been doing that together. Yeah, this is what she said.

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Ananya: What benefits and new learnings have you gained while working on this project?

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Esther: One thing I'd say is, well, knowing how to use the Pressbooks platform, it's one of my biggest flex because I'm like, oh, I can use this to, you know, do this and like, know, like, okay, well, that's one of them.

And secondly, I'd say it's just seen like really cool minds work together because I'm really grateful for this project. And I think it's really helpful and beneficial for students in first year. Just students in general in chemistry. Because when people say chemistry, I'm I'm taking comp right now, like programing and I say I'm doing chemical biology. Oh my God.

Like it's not that bad. And so just chemistry in general, seeing this project just pan out is really cool. And it's just opened my mind to like various opportunities for students in chem or just science in general.

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Ashlynn: So for me, I think it has given me a whole new aspect on studying, and especially because I want to be a teacher after I finish my degree here at TRU. And so it has given me this new aspect on how to help students learn, and all the different ways that different students have different needs and meeting those different needs and, and one sort of platform. And I think that that's really amazing, especially since I do want to continue tutoring while I'm here in university as well. So that's been my biggest thing. And I can also use it in my own studying, because I've used those methods when I'm studying for my own courses.

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Ananya: Have you had a chance to share your experiences with your peers? What were the thoughts on this project?

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Esther: One of my friends that I talked to again, like, oh, we're making like, it's kind of like a pressbooks and then like, can making a textbook like. No, not entirely, but yes. So they think is really cool. And for those who are just going to take chem, kind of like they're not in sciences, but they still need like chem 1500 or at least first year chem. It's like a really good resource for those who are not like comfortable with chemistry at all. And I think it would be so beneficial for them.

So I have friends who have to take chem, but they putting it off for the last semester and I'm like, oh, we have this Pressbooks is coming out, and I think you're going to benefit so much from it's like, oh, that's really good to hear. So yeah, that's most of my friends hands on it.

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Ashlynn: I definitely brag about this project as much as I can, because I think it's so cool that we're having something like this implemented.

And, you know, chemistry, which is seen as a really, really difficult course. But when you get the tools to be able to study for it properly, it can be, you know, a lot easier for these students. And I think that, you know, like what you said about, you know, telling other students who are afraid to take chemistry, it does take a huge amount of pressure off of them, especially while taking other courses.

And, you know, one of the things I say is we don't have enough materials to study, because we just need more practice, more practice, more practice, more practice to understand what we're doing, because I can listen to somebody lecture in a class and be like, oh, I understand that. But I'll walk out and I'm like, wait, what?

She say? You know what he say? And so then I'll go home and then I'll try and figure out what to practice, Google things online, use all extra resources. And so I'm telling, you know, my friends, when you're taking these kind of courses and we need it implemented and, you know, all of the other courses that we're taking because you're able to see what you learn and you're able to actually see what you know and what you don't know, and it gives you resources to be able to learn what you don't right then and there.

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Ananya: Would you recommend research opportunities for students who are not in their final years?

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Ashlynn: Yes, absolutely. Because you get to learn more about yourself. You get to learn more about your degree. And if you want to change, or if you don't want to stay or if you want to specialize. And I definitely recommend, research. Yeah, yeah.

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Esther: And it's just it's a good way to just measure where you actually want to be. It's like, is this what I like? Is this what I actually want to be doing? And it just opens your aspects of various, like, new worlds, new ideas, new perspectives. And you're like, well, maybe. I used to think I wanted to be a bio major.

And so I took chem and I was like, wait, okay, now I'm conflicted. Which one is okay? But yeah, so that's why we both settle for chemical biology, basically. But yeah, just research is a really good way to just open yourself and see where you actually want to be doing. That's like a really good guide. Yeah. To what you want to majoring.

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Ashlynn: Yeah. Not to mention it can, go forward into a future career. People who are going in for a PhD, they, they need to start in research. So if you start in your first year, you can do research through your entire degree, especially if you want to work with certain people have. And it's also a good way to just interact with your teachers and professors in like different majors in everything.

So yeah, it's just it's just good for general for sure. Thank you. Yeah.

00:07:40:08 - 00:07:44:18

Ananya: Thank you for the interview Ashlynn and Esther.