VIDEO TRANSCRIPT: VIDEO OF ARLENE RODRIGUEZ

My name is Arlene Rodriguez. I'm an English professor, an honors program coordinator here at STCC. And I teach honors level Composition I, College Writing and Introduction to Literature in addition to U.S. Latino Literature and Technical Report Writing.

I first became involved with UDL through the Department of Education grant and the Office of Disability Services here at STCC. And I've learned a lot about universal design, and have even started to incorporate a lot of the principles I'm learning about into my curriculum.

My project for the universal design grant was a video CD for my Latino Literature class.

Reading literature aloud is very important to me. I think students need to experience not just the words on the page, but also the sound of the words. It's not going to fully impact a student unless they also hear the language of the text of the story being told. And, so this project allows me the opportunity to have a video and audio recordings of the text assigned for Latino Literature, and be available to all the students.

Some of the benefits included creating a really wonderful community of readers, both faculty and students who cheered each other on and were given a chance to choose their favorites texts, and read aloud in front of a camera as they were being recorded.

I also feel that this provides a wonderful opportunity for students who may be more dependent on the sounds of words, as that helps them read as their reading the words on the text. This is a wonderful opportunity to help them stay focused on the written text. It's great that they can see another student reading the text out loud and they can relate to the text that way as well, or another faculty member that they may recognize from school.

Also, I think this really just gives students a full impact of literature. To me, literature is not simply words on a page. It's the sound. It's a very sensual experience. It's the sound of the word. It's how someone reads the poem, how someone is able to perform the poem that really gives you a strong impact of the literature, and I think makes the experience more memorable for a student.
So this project is a wonderful opportunity for me to, hopefully, imbue in students that passion that I have for literature and allows them to engage all their senses so they can see the literature as a very well-rounded experience.