

Field Report: Alma College, Alma, MI

About Alma College: Fifty miles north of Lansing and two and one-half hours northwest of Detroit, Alma College is a private liberal arts college that enrolls approximately 1,400 students and is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The college offers five degrees in 41 majors.

Course Instructor: Dr. Deborah A. Dougherty

Courses: SPN 100 Foundations of Spanish (2 credits)

First implementation: January 2020



Dr. Deborah A. Dougherty

Why did you select to pilot *Contraseña*? What would you recommend most to instructors based on your experience?

I chose **Contraseña** because our program had already committed to an input-driven, standards-based curriculum for language acquisition. I've been very pleased with the comprehensiveness of the materials and the scaffolding that leads students to a personally meaningful project at the end of each unit.

How smooth was implementation? How has LingroLearning's Instructor Support compared with that offered by other publishing companies?

Implementation has been very smooth—from setting up the lessons and grade book on the instructor-end to purchase and use by students. The instructor support has been exceptional, answering any questions I or my students have had, even setting up an impromptu video call after business hours to share a screen and walk me through an issue that would have been complicated to try to explain through the chat function.

How has *Contraseña* contributed to higher levels of student engagement?

Most of my students are working with the **Aplicar** and **Comprobar** activities until they receive 95% or better. So far, I haven't had any complaints about the computer grading being "too picky"—a frequent complaint with other online supplemental materials. After the first Unit I didn't have any difficulties with students not properly submitting either

How has *Contraseña* contributed to higher levels of student engagement?

Some students are more engaged with the social networking model than others. At this point, I am using the first six Units in a seven-week course, essentially as a rapid review for students who have had some previous study. Because of the pace, I haven't emphasized that component yet but plan to as we slow down to progress through the remaining Units at a presentation/practice pace rather than review. Overall, I have been pleased with the results of their projects. Much like with traditional tests, I think the learning that takes place occurs in the preparation prior to the test or project itself. I'm particularly pleased with the preparation steps that students work through to help them think about how to best select and organize the information they will present.



How have the proyectos and social learning contributed to better learning outcomes?

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