

Project 4

Professional Growth Plan

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Education is much more than simply dictating from a textbook. It is not only the teacher's responsibility to cover the required curriculum but, more importantly, to inspire students and help them develop and grow as individuals. My vision as an educator is to provide a safe, secure, nurturing learning environment, because without this, it is nearly impossible for learning to take place.

In a world that has fundamentally changed, students need both academic and technical skills to succeed in the global economy. Schools should do their best to include all stakeholders in decisions and to provide students with these competencies so that they can be productive citizens in a challenging environment. This is where my strength and passion lies.

I feel that technology is a tool for learning that can increase academic opportunities. Technology can change the way that teachers teach, offering a variety of effective ways to reach different types of learners and assess student understanding through multiple means.

As I reflect, I love that I have become known as a 'go to' person for technology questions because it is something that I really have a passion for. As the years have passed, I have been seeing myself as more of a leader and welcoming opportunities to show my leadership capabilities. I have been instrumental in helping with scheduling issues, as well as facilitating professional development sessions in several areas including; Oncourse Systems, Reading A-Z, LinkIt, Google Apps, G Suite for Education, Google Classroom, etc. I provide ongoing technology support and professional development to staff.

I genuinely enjoy what I presently do and I am passionate about building upon the success that I have already experienced as an educator and an emerging educational technology leader. As I continue to grow as a leader, I find myself identifying most with transformational leadership. This leadership approach aligns the most with my educational philosophy because, “as the name implies, transformational leadership is a process that changes and transforms people. It is concerned with emotions, values, ethics, standards, and long-term goals” (Northouse, 2013). I believe that a leader should inspire others and motivate them to want to do their best. I hope that through my passion, this is what I will help others to do.

I am ecstatic about the idea of developing myself further in the area of educational technology leadership and furthering my career in the public school setting, perhaps becoming a Supervisor of Educational Technology. In this role, I envision being able to effect change and be an influential leader in the area of technology and its impact on student learning. Ultimately, I hope to continue to give back, inspire and change the lives of learners, in whatever capacity I can.

I have set the following benchmarks as a timeline to help me reach my goals:

2017-2018 Goals

- Work collaboratively with my cohort colleagues
- Continue to provide support to my colleagues in my district to help them incorporate technology in their curriculum to enhance student learning and engagement
- Help write my district's technology curriculum
- Obtain my Google Certified Educator - Level 2 certification
- Expand my professional network by actively participating in professional learning networks and professional organizations
- Communicate with my professors to learn about growth, presentation, and authorship opportunities
- Attend at least one educational technology conference
- Co-present at an educational technology conference or edcamp
- Keep <https://www.facebook.com/FreeEducationalTechnology/> up to date as an effort to share my knowledge and help educators
- Successfully complete year one of the doctoral program

2018-2019 Goals

- Continue my doctoral journey and to work collaboratively with my cohort colleagues
- Continue to provide support to my colleagues in my district to help them incorporate technology in their curriculum to enhance student learning and engagement
- Continue to communicate with my professors to learn about growth, presentation, and authorship opportunities
- Continue to expand my professional network beyond New Jersey and engage with EdTech professionals
- Submit an article and get published in an education blog, newspaper, or online journal
- Continue presenting at professional conferences, including:
 - NJEA conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (November 8-9, 2018)
 - Techspo conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (January 24-25, 2019)
- Obtain my Google Certified Trainer certificate
- Continue to keep <https://www.facebook.com/FreeEducationalTechnology/> up to date as an effort to share my knowledge and help educators
- Successfully complete year two of the doctoral program

2019-2020 Goals

- Begin dissertation process
- Continue presenting at professional conferences, including:
 - ISTE conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (June 23-26, 2019) with my NJCU professors and/or colleagues
 - NJEA conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (November 7-8, 2019)
 - Techspo conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (January 30-31, 2020)
- Publish original research to a peer-reviewed publication and/or work towards authoring or coauthoring a book
- Obtain my Google Certified Innovator certificate
- Continue to keep <https://www.facebook.com/FreeEducationalTechnology/> up to date as an effort to share my knowledge and help educators
- Successfully defend my thesis and earn my Doctorate in Educational Technology Leadership

References

Northouse, P. (2013) *Leadership: Theory and Practice* (6th edition). Los Angeles: Sage.