Professional Growth Plan

Linda L. Lampert

New Jersey City University

Professional Growth Plan

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. Education should be a community and students should know that their teachers care about them. My vision as an educator is to provide the type of environment where students feel safe, secure, and nurtured. Without this, it is nearly impossible for learning to take place.

The world around us is quickly changing and so are the students. Today's classrooms are filled with individuals that are complex, energetic and tech-savvy (Crockett, 2016). With this change, there is a shift in the types of jobs that are available. Most of the jobs that are in-demand today, did not even exist ten years ago. This trend will continue. In fact, most of the children entering elementary school will end up working in jobs that do not even exist yet (Krueger, 2017). In order to succeed in this changing economy, students need both academic and technical skills. 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.

I feel that technology is an important tool for learning that can increase academic opportunities. This is where my strength and excitement lies. 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. Recently, 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 "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 met the following 2017-2018 goals:
- Worked collaboratively with my cohort colleagues
- Continued to provide support to my colleagues in my district to help them incorporate technology into their curriculum to enhance student learning and engagement
- Obtained my Google Certified Educator - Level 2 Certification, Fall 2017

- Expanded my professional network by actively participating in professional learning networks and professional organizations (NJTEN & Twitter)
- Instrumental in having Google come to my district and I facilitated an AR experience with the students in all 4 elementary schools.
- Communicated with my professors to learn about growth, presentation, and authorship opportunities
- Worked on keeping https://www.facebook.com/FreeEducationalTechnology/ & Twitter up to date as an effort to share my knowledge and help educators
- Renewed my CPR and AED Certification, December 2017
- Attended Techspo, an educational technology conference, January 2018
- Awarded Tech4Learning Innovative Educator, February 2018
- Inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, Spring 2018
- Volunteered as a CODiE judge for the 'Best Game-Based Curriculum Solution' category
- Earned my Certified BrainPOP Educator certification, Spring 2018
- Successfully completed year one of the doctoral program with a 3.955 GPA.

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

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 into 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
- Help write my district's technology curriculum
- Present at professional conferences, including:
  - NJASL conference in Long Branch, New Jersey (December 2-4, 2018)
  - Techspo conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey (January 24-25, 2019)
  - ISTE conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (June 23-26, 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 the dissertation process
- Continue presenting at professional conferences, including:
    - 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 co-authoring 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

Crockett, L. (2016, August 2). The critical 21st century skills every student needs

and why. *Global Digital Citizen Foundation.* Retrieved from

https://globaldigitalcitizen.org/21st-century-skills-every-student-needs

Krueger, N. (2017, June 16). Preparing students for jobs that don't exist [Blog

Post]. Retrieved from https://www.iste.org/explore/articledetail?

articleid=1002

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

Angeles: Sage.