

Professional Growth Plan

One thing remains constant in all levels of education, no matter what you think you know there is always more to learn. I feel this way after I have complete all of the projects for this course. I feel very confident as a teacher. I am good in the classroom and enjoy the classroom experience. I want to provide more for my students. One way that I believe I can do this is by being an instructional leader and enhancing the abilities of the entire staff. I relish in the possibility of the new opportunities abound. There is no greater satisfaction than observing student success. I think it is important and was especially important for me to realize that students come in many ages and ability levels.

Being a classroom educator, I have thought of students in the traditional sense. They sit in the desks in front of me and listen or participate in my lecture. I know that every day I am learning a new skill or tweaking an old approach to a concept. I did not realize, maybe because it was not at the forefront of my brain or because days get busy and I did not allocate enough time to reflect, how much of an impact I have and can have on fellow peer educators. I have begun to realize this throughout the semester and will think of and search out opportunities where I can be of service.

Since I am currently a private school teacher I do not have to concern myself so much with the common core or the state standards and benchmarks. I realized from the curriculum review assignment; how little I knew about the specifics of what was to be expected and all of the elements of a curriculum review. I did know what the state standards and benchmarks were but never had to dig deeper into the curriculum. The curriculum review made me do these things.

The pre-observations and the observations were phenomenal. I was able to sit in another teacher's class and just observe for a little while. I was able to watch what the students were doing as the teacher performed their duty. After the two general observations, the more formal pre-conference and observation took place. I chose a teacher that was a more senior teacher and has been an administrator. He is a friend of mine and has always had a welcoming and open demeanor about him.

Because of the discussions that took place in the EDLD 515 classes I was able to better ascertain from my colleague what and how we were going to focus on a specific aspect of his teaching. I chose a veteran teacher because they can be a little trickier to deal with since they are more set in their ways. This was the case and reared its head during the post conference. It was not an ugly head, but one that I did not entirely anticipate correctly but I think I adjusted my approach on the fly well. I became more of a sounding board and a listener and only spoke a few times. I showed empathy and understanding and then provided a couple of strategies he could use in class to maybe facilitate more participation. He was still resistant, although I could tell that he did hear and listened to me. He informed me that he used my suggestions and they were successful. This increased my confidence and I was invigorated to continue on the path I have started.

I am at the beginning of my educational leadership classes. I have been encouraged by what I have learned thus far and am encouraged by what is still yet to be learned. Because of these classes, I plan to keep my ears open for educational leadership opportunities. I think one of the items that I thought of when I first decided on educational leadership was helping the struggling teachers. I am still empowered by the potential to do this. I am motivated now by the opportunity to improve the all teacher's educational processes, which will in turn help not only the struggling teachers but also enhance the ability of the effective teachers.

After providing all of the preceding examples of how EDLD 515 has exposed me what an instructional leadership is and all of the positive impacts it has; I would like to take the next few sentences to talk about how I am going to enhance my ability to be an instructional leader. I will continue to research opportunities to work with my fellow colleagues to enhance student education. I plan on sacrificing some of my prep time and working with others to go through the same practice I went through with my cooperating teacher. I also plan to research more strategies and seminars/professional development opportunities that are available to help educators (including myself)

achieve their classroom goals. I also realize my lack of knowledge of the common core and will continue to research more on the common core. I think that I need to have a better understanding of how to competently conduct a curriculum review on all subject areas.

I have been motivated and humbled by the experiences over the past semester. One thing hasn't changed no matter what you think you know there is always more to learn. My resolve to learn more has not wavered and I anticipate a greater understanding of how to be a more effective leader to grow as my experience in that position grows.

By: Brian Bedard