A Professional Growth Plan For an Education Technology Leader

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Preparing A Plan

As I think about my future goals, I find the thought to be difficult. At this moment, I am living out a goal of pursuing a Doctoral Degree that focuses on two areas that I absolutely love, Education and Technology. To think of a goal beyond completing this Doctoral journey, adds to the difficulty I face. However, for the purposes of preparing this professional growth plan (PGP), it is necessary to think beyond the moment and identify a goal. When creating a PGP, it is important to identify: your goal (*What*); the purpose of your goal *(why)*; a plan to attain your goal *(how),* and a timeline to reach your goal *(when)*. A core component of a PGP is an established goal. (Scivicque, 2011)

Defining The Goal - *What*

My ultimate goal is to become a 21st century educator who leverages Educational Technology (ET) to teach tomorrow's K-12 educators at the college or university level. I am specifically interested in teaching courses related to education, technology, business, systems and/or sustainability. ET is the study, use and management of processes and resources to improve learning. (Hlynka & Jacobsen, 2009) Throughout my career, I have gained many experiences in ET that I hope to use as tools to enlighten, motivate and develop future innovative educators.

Experiential Teaching - *Why*

I vividly remember and most appreciate those professors that connected the content of a lecture to their daily practices and experiences. Professors that shared experiential knowledge, allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the content and practical applications. This allowed me to quickly implement new practices in my classroom early in my teaching career. I hope to be a professor who makes experiential connections and adds a real-world practical dimension to my classes, to allow future teachers to walk away with practical tools. This will in-turn support teachers' practices by increasing their practical knowledge.

Great teachers are the primary resources for improving instruction and preparing students for the future. Students that have access to quality teachers and innovators, stand a greater chance at competing in the workforces and positively impacting their communities. (Peske & Haycock, 2006) To position our students' for future success, professors that can create deeper connections with future teachers are

needed in higher education. This need fuels my desire to share my experiences and knowledge with tomorrow's great teachers.

Strategy – *How and When*

The following list defines a six-part plan that I will follow to attain my goal by May, 2018:

1. Seek guidance from current professors to target a specialized discipline.

2. Co-author a published paper with a professor or group of students.

3. Learn to teach online courses to improve teaching versatility.

4. Shadow a professor to gain a better understanding of teaching practices.

5. Develop ET theory and practice through New Jersey City University's Ed.D Leadership Program.

Presentation and Leadership - *How*

An effective professor is also a skillful communicator and presenter. (Kelchner, 2015) To improve my communication and presentation skills, I plan to carry out at least two ET presentations per year. Ideally, I would like to present at a NJEDge conference, NJCU ET showcase, or equivalent. In addition to communication, developing solid leadership skills is important to being an effective professor. I believe that I have a charismatic leadership style that allows for effective presentation and motivation. I hope to leverage the abilities of a charismatic leader to intrinsically motivate and influence future educators using ET (Northouse, 2013 p.187) Focusing on maintaining high energy and passion for the content that I present will allow me to capture the attention and minds of future educators.

Reflection

Johnson (1998) author of, "*Who Moved My Cheese?",* stated that, "imagining yourself enjoying new cheese even before finding it, leads you to it." (Johnson, 1998 p. 68) My interpretation of Johnson's statement is, to begin with the end in mind and maintain positive thoughts to move forward in your journey to attain your goal. Johnson's point is significant because the path to success will likely prove challenging with many changes. However, being positive, reflective and adaptive will improve my chances to succeed. Therefore, to accomplish my three-year goal of becoming a professor of ET, I will imagine the rewards of enlightening tomorrow's innovative educators, along with following and adjusting my strategies, as required.

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