

Professional Growth Plan

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Long-Range Goals and Current Objectives

I am expanding my capacity for leadership in the field of Educational Technology. I want to be a known expert in active learning strategies, augmented reality and virtual reality. In my current role as a technology coach, I will partner with the Supervisor of Educational Technology to implement a 1:1 Chromebook initiative for the 9th grade Academy in the fall. This is an opportunity to work with teachers to increase classroom engagement, collaboration, and personalization by infusing technical tools and techniques into daily lessons. A new principal and assistant principal will start on August 1. I have prepared and submitted a plan for teacher development for the year that is aligned with Google Certified Educator Gsuite training. I will also lead an inaugural Girls who Code Club and develop the curriculum for Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles: a new elective.

My goals include educational technology leadership in my community. I am in communication with my local library regarding the implementation of a STEM initiative for elementary and middle school-aged students. Previous discussions have included the possibility of a cyber initiative for elementary school students and a possible Girls Who Code club. The cyber initiative was suggested for summer, however, the youth director was concerned about a traditional drop off of attendance for summer programs so we are planning for fall. Girls Who Code leaves a concern regarding programming for boys. Although the program is not exclusive, there is a concern about perception. We are still planning, in conjunction with existing library programs. Expectations for participation and availability of resources in competition with other library programs is a challenge. I am working with the Youth Director to find an agreement for programming that augments all other library programs.

Future career plans include working in the field of higher education and serving students and faculty in distance learning programs. An immediate goal is to secure a position in a distance learning program as an adjunct and build my capacity for teaching and developing online programs. The goal of working in higher education as my career progresses, led to my choice to pursue a doctorate in educational technology leadership. I observed that most of the openings in higher education require a doctorate degree.

Leadership positions in e-learning may be considered in other educational settings as well. I would like to be involved with the creation and delivery of online programs as well as teaching. As the demand for a highly-skilled workforce continues to increase, distance learning creates opportunities for many to learn. I am committed to creating openings for action for student participation and success.

In order to meet these objectives, I take advantage of opportunities to obtain and share knowledge. I co-presented at conferences and will reset a goal to publish an article. I co-presented *Active Learning Strategies* at the Montgomery County Community College Teaching and Learning Conference in Blue Bell, PA, October 2018. I was a panel presenter on *Virtual Reality* at the Association for School Librarians Conference, December 2018. I co-presented on *Evaluating an Active Learning Classroom* at The New Jersey Association of School Administrators TECHSPO Conference in Atlantic City, NJ on January 2019. I also co-presented on *Active Learning* at ISTE2019 in Philadelphia, PA, June 2019. These presentations were created with an Active Learning Theme although each highlighted different tools and techniques and/or included engagement with augmented and virtual reality. At the Montgomery County Community College (MC3) Teaching and Learning Conference a poster presentation provided an opportunity for a cohort member and me to talk with attendees about strategies and the digital tools available to engage students, make learning visible and demonstrate

learning. A similar poster presentation at ISTE2019 provided similar talking points. The TECHSPO presentation gave each co-presenter an opportunity to engage the audience in what active learning looks like as it aligns to teacher evaluation. Specific examples were provided and aligned with teacher evaluation frameworks.

Plans to Meet Objectives

In order to prepare to meet future goals and objectives, I will continue to present themes of active learning and augmented/virtual reality at local conferences. These strands continue to be relevant to conference topics. I will also prepare an article that can be published. This will require me to increase the level at which I currently plan and organize my work and my life as I look for opportunities, as well as analyze existing information and identify what information may be needed or wanted. I am partnering with one of my cohort members to submit proposals to present at the Montgomery County Community College Teaching and Learning Conference in October 2019 under the Active Learning Track and at EdgeCon 2020 under the conference track Educational Technology Methods to Deepen Learner Engagement. I expect other opportunities will emerge during the 2019-2020 school year. I may encounter an opportunity to present at one or two Edcamps in Somerville, August 2019 and New Brunswick November 2019.

I am interested in an opportunity to present a webinar that may be viewed synchronously or asynchronously. This requires skills that are different than the skills used in-person. I look forward to an opportunity to practice with communication and engagement tools for an interactive online presentation. I welcome any opportunity to share expertise in this format as I develop skills to present in multiple modalities.

I identified Educase for a possible article submission as they have a series entitled "7 Things You Should Know About" as a format for sharing an idea regarding emerging technologies and innovative practices. As I engage with professionals during planned presentations, I will keep notes to guide what might be presented in an article that would be a contribution to higher education faculty and staff and consider an article including Augmented Reality as a Teaching and Learning tool for content delivery as well as demonstrations of learning.

Professional Reading Plan

Several books are on my reading list. I added to that list as Summer III ended. I have started to read *The War of Art* by Steven Pressfield and Shawn Coyne. It is a light, interesting and profound description of the circumstances and experiences that keep human beings from reaching their goals. There is one book on my reading list that I have not finished. As I expand my social presence this year, *140 Twitter tips for Educators* by Brad Currie, Billy Krakower and Scott Rocco is on my reading plan. I am adding research journals to the reading plan to keep up with the quick pace and swiftly changing field of educational technology, its relevance, application, and implementation in teaching and learning. Journals I plan to read regularly include the *Journal of Computers and Education* and *Tech Trends* to keep up to date with current research and the corresponding impact on educational outcomes.

The most important thing for implementing a reading plan is to schedule a consistent reading time and to set goals for reading. I will use Mendeley and Diigo to curate the collection of readings and use coffee time as a time to take a quick read. The books are lightweight and can be carried. *The War of Art* is small and easily portable. I have already had several opportunities to read it.

I am also interested in adding a podcast or two to the reading/listening plan. The podcasts are facilitated by technology leaders that I follow on social media. Listening regularly will keep me up to

date on experiences teachers across the county are using to make a profound difference for students by using technology as a catalyst. There are several leaders who facilitate podcasts that are highly rated by leading educational technology periodicals including House of #EdTech, and the Shakeup Learning Show. Each of these includes discussions with specialists and educational technology leaders regarding the implementation and practice of a variety and educational technology topics.

Seminars Attended and Evaluated

I attended TECHSPO 2019: The National Association of School Administrators Technology Conference. In addition to presenting on *Evaluating an Active Learning Classroom*, the opportunity to be in communication with school leaders across the state and have the opportunity to hear what matters to them makes a difference. I learned how other districts are using technology across all content areas. This gave me ideas that can be used when I am modeling and coaching teachers in my district. I attended the NJCU Seminar with Richard Bryne, creator of FreeTech4Teachers. This seminar provided an inside look at how communities are engaged online and what it takes to curate and provide meaningful content and manage communications. I learned the considerations and adjustments that sometimes need to be made based on results. Attending the International Society for Technology in Education conference was a tremendous opportunity to browse the activities of leaders in the field and experience their commitment to the growth of educational technology leadership. The most meaningful opportunity was a close up hands-on experience with Carnegie Mellon's Computer Science Academy initiative. It is a tool developed by students for teachers to use for teaching python programming in a graphic manner. The resource is free and the students are building professional development into the product. This is an awesome tool that I can share with my colleagues and it is good for teachers who

may be new to teaching python programming. There is always at least one great takeaway from any conference. The goal is to find a tool or technique that has tremendous value and that can be used immediately in one's practice. All of these conferences and workshops provided that.

Plan of Study

As I continue to develop myself as an educational technology leader, I will continue to engage as a conference presenter for areas of interest: Active Learning and Augmented/Virtual Reality for engagement and collaboration throughout the learning cycle. I plan to present at several conferences and EdCamps this year. A proposal was submitted to the MC3 Teaching and Learning Conference to co-present on Active Learning, Gamification and AR/VR and I plan to submit a proposal to EdgeCon with a cohort member as well. I will make a case for my school to become a district member NJECC. This will facilitate the possibility of my attendance at the NJECC conference in 2020. I plan to attend EDCamp Sommerville the week before school starts. EdCamps are great opportunities to meet educational technology leaders around the state and engage in informal learning experiences.

I will continue engagement with educational technology video conference series' and book studies with teacher leaders in my previous educational community. We challenge one another in our commitment to optimizing student outcomes. Video series work well as many are available on-demand and several providers, Simple K12 among them, have free Webinars for teachers, as well as, administrators. I recently engaged in a facebook book study and found it an interesting platform to use as a collaboration tool synchronously as well as asynchronously.

Creative, Holistic Renewing Activities

I am planning creative, holistic renewing activities for rest and relaxation. The opportunity to unplug and begin to master mindfulness are renewing activities I am putting in place for my health and well-being. I have an application on my computer that I often use to help focus when I am working, stressed or at rest. I am adding mindfulness and meditation, which is available on the same application. I am finding that it is beneficial for me to learn to empty my mind. This takes practice as does many things that human beings learn to do gradually. I realize that often I am unable to get focused and it prevents me from being able to do my best work.

I will keep my 3 ring binder with the colorful printout of “Anything is Possible” on the front and “She believed she could so she did” on the back to remind me to get back on track when I find that I am off course with the goals I have set for myself. I abandoned a morning routine in favor of more sleep as a New Year’s resolution some time ago, however, at this time I will create a compromise, and allow perhaps not as much time, but some time for reflective thought and meditation when I get up and before I go to bed.

Other Professional Growth Activities

One course being added to my plan for growth and development is an Energy Leadership Course. Although the course is not specific to educational technology, it frames leadership in a paradigm of Energy flow for leaders and their surrounding communities. I was introduced to the course briefly and used some of the diagnostics to prioritize and identify key components of my personal vision as a transformational leader.

Other things that I will do as I continue to grow and develop myself as an educational technology leader is to create a website: tech2classroom, to brand myself as a K-20 educational technology

integrator. Utilizing the experiences and practice from readings and classwork in the program, I expect to begin cultivating and managing an online community of my own. Tech2classroom uses Engage, Explore, Empower as a motto and will be developed as a resource that can be used by all education stakeholders for tools and techniques related to engagement, collaboration, and personalization. I would like for other professionals to consult with me on active learning strategies, interactive lesson planning and 21st-century assessment (video or task creation).

An additional professional growth activity that I have not taken action on is the development of an online study skills course. I tutored study skills as a small business years ago and found the 1:1 model an ineffective use of my time. The next step was to fulfill on the course synchronously however, I did not prioritize my time to meet that goal. As I plan my time for research, readings, and presentations, planning the creation of a website and online community and online course are goals with a longer range. I look forward to rebuilding my brand for that as well. Aim4Learning using SOAR study skills will offer student-friendly study strategies for students.

As I renew a commitment to planning and organization at a level that is consistent with leadership, I will set weekly reading goals and create long-range plans for the goals that are further away. My calendar will include all of the commitments and time for each will be planned as I continue my growth and development. A clear vision is what is needed to stay on track or to get back on course when distractors emerge and weekly goals that lead to progress on longer-range plans will create the journey for success.