

During the past school year, I expanded my capacity for leadership in the field of Educational Technology. I identified myself as a transformational leader after studying styles of leadership (Northouse, 2013). Working with teams, and engaging others to create connections, are among the characteristics I used as an educator, change agent and professional learning leader in my previous district. In my new role as an instructional technology coach, I find the skills and strategies employed by transformational leaders have the greatest positive impact in environments where change is continuous. The challenge of implementing student-centered learning and coaching teachers to use embedded technology tools that provide opportunities for students to communicate, collaborate, think critically and create, is best facilitated by educators sharing knowledge and responsibility. Acknowledging and supporting the contribution technology tools are to teaching and learning have the greatest positive impact on outcomes for students and educators in a global society.

In the leadership courses, I developed a proposal for using an app to facilitate a study skills curriculum. Use of mobile phones for learning is often a controversial topic and would require transformational leadership to gain buy-in. I co-presented the style approach to leadership with a cohort member and quickly overcame the quiet natured leader that I am and took charge quickly to divide tasks. The first literature review on blended learning, provided an opportunity for me to research a topic and add depth to my knowledge of facilitating blended courses with a focus on leadership.

My capabilities as a leader were expanded by the theory courses. I worked with cohort members to analyze, evaluate and co-present findings regarding the implementation of virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality. I found many opportunities during this project to build upon skills for follow up and follow through. These are areas I am continuously improving. Many of the group dynamic skills I use face to face, worked well in online groups as well. Creating the technology theme park allowed me to practice, strengthen and demonstrate constructivist learning theories. The technology theme park

presented an opportunity for students to learn about and practice Internet Safety and Security skills applied to familiar and relevant experiences (Dirksen, 2016).

I have prepared myself to be a leader in the field of educational technology by extending capabilities in the areas of data analysis and research methods. The course in data analysis deepened my ability to cite data and prepare images that facilitate the representation of data. Although this area was familiar, adding APA was an area of growth. Demonstrating use of qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research provided exposure to the type of work involved with dissertations and other research. I will continue to develop mastery of the research methods as I explore possibilities for research in the dissertation topic that I choose. As I explored topics in online learning, I did have the opportunity to practice with possible research questions, methods and instruments for the different types of research. I learned how to use research to support the case for further study (Creswell, 2018). The different methods emerge from worldviews that vary in scope. Using them as an investigative lens is an area that I look forward to strengthening.

My strengths included the vision and passion for outcomes that a transformational leader embodies. Building capacity through professional learning communities facilitates, partnership, teacher ownership and supported execution of technology integration practices. My weaknesses however, include over analyzing instead of a quick assessment followed by strategic action. At times, I observe too long and spend too much time gathering information. To make progress during the next year, I see myself presenting at multiple conferences as I strengthen my skills as one who has valuable information to share with professionals, in addition to writing an article or two in a journal. I will take the opportunity to work with a group on some of the projects to strengthen my ability to assess and respond quickly. These are skills educators utilized in the classroom all the time. There is room for me to grow as I extend these abilities outside of the classroom.