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Personal Development Plan

Summer Institute in Educational Technology Leadership

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Dr. Zieger

Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done.
Robert A. Heinlein (1966)

During the next three years, driven by the rapid pace and rigor of this Doctoral program, I am looking forward to gaining necessary skills and confidence for sharing my own ideas with fellow colleagues using various forms of communication channels. The biggest piece of communication, of course, will be my dissertation, which is both exciting and challenging to even think about it now. Other means of communicating my ideas will include presentations at various professional development venues, in my own school and offsite, and possibly participate in co-authoring an article or (now I am going to be really ambitious!) a book chapter.

Applying the fundamental two-step evaluation framework to my development plan of what to keep and what to change, I would like to continue chairing the academic department in my institution. Although this position has already presented me with numerous opportunities to work with a group of faculty and students towards the common goal, I am looking forward to expanding my leadership toolkit by becoming well familiar with multiple leadership theories and grow to establish my own effective leadership style.

Working at the Community College provides me grateful opportunities to make a difference in students' lives by not only educating on the subject matter topics but also on providing academic and career-oriented advice. It is a very important, yet a very delicate task, which I always pursue with extra attentiveness and care. The field of Information Technology is a very challenging field to educate in, mostly because it is a moving target that moves along the industry itself. Through attending presentations and meeting with the industry professionals, who are the potential hiring managers of our graduates, I have learned that there is a tremendous gap in skills between what students learn in schools and what are they expected to know upon

employment. Looking and finding opportunities for minimizing this gap has become my professional objectives. I hope that the credential level earned through this Doctoral program will help me in establishing new ways for meeting my professional objectives and minimizing this gap in the following ways:

- Provide students with an aptitude based evaluation early in their educational career to find a better fit for their talents (as of now, I am contemplating for this area to have a potential for the dissertation topic);
- Develop and implement new ways for incorporating enterprise computing content into the curriculum to provide students with the necessary skills, greatly needed in the industry;
- Research and establish cybersecurity curriculum to satisfy the growing need in this field;
- Research and evaluate education apprenticeship model applicable to Information Technology education.

In conclusion, I would like to extend the idea behind my development plan outside of the field of Educational Technology. With your permission, if I may alter the point of view in the title of the program to “Leadership through Educational Technology”, it reflects my long, long-term goal with a great deal of implied ambition. (On a personal level, I am not sure if I like it.) Thank you for reading!