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Summer Institute II
Dr. Carnahan

PDP Reflection – Start of Year II

This past year has certainly been a year of firsts for me. As I progressed through the first-year curriculum of Educational Technology Leadership program, I was able to encounter other challenging and interesting firsts which contributed to my overall growth and professional development.

In November, I was invited, for the first time, to co-present at the college-wide Instructional Computing Summit. The focus, very relevant to the Doctoral program, was centered on how to incorporate newer approaches to teaching and learning through digital learning environments and provide robust tools/functions for creating a more purposeful learner-centric experience.

In March, I was invited to participate at the invitational two-day workshop on Authentic Inclusion of Community Colleges in Broadening Participation in Computing. It was organized by Santa Fe College and supported by Google. Traveling to Mountain View, CA and spending two days on Google campus was fun! I got to meet and work with a number of wonderful people, colleagues from two-year and four-year schools as well social scientists and researchers. It provided invaluable experience to be a part of team working on and creating a conceptual model for broadening participation in computing.

In June, I was nominated by the college administration to attend the Chair Academy, an 18-month engagement on the leadership and development. With over forty colleagues from all

community colleges in New Jersey, we entered a cohort-based program on understanding the complex roles of the leaders. This experience was eye-opening in many ways. It allowed me to find out what my strengths are – the foundation for the leadership based on the work the positive psychologists and their contributions to the strengths movement (Drucker, 2016; Seligman, & Csikszentmihalyi, 2000; Clifton & Buckingham, 2001). It allowed me not only to recognize my own top five strengths, such as learner, achiever, woo, focus, and relator, but also appreciate the strengths of others.

As recommended by the Chair Academy, I established my own mission statement which states: be true to yourself, propagate positivity and inspiration to make a difference in others and yourself. It helps me with staying focused on the qualities of the transformational leader that I would like to become (Northouse, 2013). While this past year has been productive, there is room for continuous improvement and growth in my personal and professional qualities.

In carrying out several roles and wearing hats of a spouse, a parent, a child, a doctoral student, a faculty member, and a department chair, my life gets hectic and intense at times. Being able to balance the load and keep adequate alignment is an essential component of the transformational leadership, as the first step towards knowing how to manage others is really managing yourself and your overall well-being. This is my number one goal for the upcoming year.

My other goal includes excelling my writing skills and submitting the papers to the scholarly writing publications. The first one that I have planned for is my institution's SOTL magazine, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. I can foresee some challenges associated with reaching this goal, as this kind of experience will be new to me. I dutifully admit that during the

past year I did not focus on sending any of my writings to publications, which, of course, is a limitation.

My next goal is to apply for active participation in professional events as a presenter or a workshop coordinator. I recognize this goal's challenges, but I am willing to attempt overcoming them, as I was not able to do so last year.

Helping my students succeed in providing quality education is my everlasting goal. To achieve it, I continue staying current on technological advances and reevaluate the marketability and the quality of our academic programs. Acquiring working knowledge in the field of Educational Technology helps me in doing so.

Sources:

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Drucker, P. (2016). *The effective executive*. Routledge.

Northouse, P. G. (2013). *Leadership: Theory and practice*. Sage publications.

Seligman, M. E., & Csikszentmihalyi, M. (2000). *Positive psychology: An introduction* (Vol. 55, No. 1, p. 5). American Psychological Association.