

Continuing to Work Towards my Professional Goals

Emily Rouls

As I reflect upon my time during my Michigan State University's Master of Arts in Education program I think about my professional goals that I had entering into the program. My first goal was to learn how to differentiate my instruction more. My second goal was to learn how to teach learning to my English Second Language Learners in a way that would make them love reading. I wrote these goals in the Fall of 2011 and I feel that I am still working every day to achieve these goals.

When lesson planning, I try to ensure all of my students are reached at an appropriate level. I have a very diverse group of learners who are at very different points in their education. Therefore, each activity needs to be thought about to reach the needs of all of my children. I believe that if students receive instruction that best suits their needs it will make them more comfortable in my classroom and more willing to learn. The master's program has taught me some ways to do this. However, I feel like this is still and will always be a goal of mine. Each year I will have a different set of students with different needs and so it is important to me to continue to differentiate my activities to reach learners at every level.

My second professional goal was to learn how to teach reading in a way that will make my Kindergarteners love to read. Reading is an essential part of a child's education. If a child struggles with reading, they most likely struggle with all other academic areas. By encouraging students to love to read, they will become more confident in that area of their education. As a result students will enjoy learning and be motivated to succeed even more. Since my choice of concentration was the Literacy Education Concentration, I felt that this degree would guide me to learn more ways to encourage students to love reading. I feel that this program has given me

more tools to encourage my students to read and to read well. However, like with my first goal, I feel like this is still a goal of mine. Since I have new students each year, they all come in with a different background of reading knowledge. It will be my goal each year to learn new ways to motivate my students to read and to love doing it.

In conclusion, the goals that I had chosen prior to starting this program are still goals that I have for myself. I feel that they are goals that I can continue to improve upon to become an even better teacher. The Michigan State University's Masters of Arts in Education program was another source for me to improve upon these goals and I feel that I was successful within the program because the program gave me more tools to continue to work towards my goals.