

"Remember this your lifetime through:
Tomorrow there will be more to do.
And, failure waits for those who stay
With some success made yesterday.
Tomorrow you must try once more,
And even harder than before."
- John Wooden -

More to Do...

Before I was accepted into the MAET (Master In Educational Technology) degree program at Michigan State University, I wrote the following goals:

“Educational technology offers a creative aspect that I find appealing. With an MAET degree, I believe that I could continue opportunities to help teachers in the classroom to merge useful educational technologies to apply creative skills to a broadening use of applications for effective and innovative instruction in public or private education, as a teacher or administrator at K-12 instructional settings, at universities, and in business settings. The investment in the MAET program offers flexibility and relevance, as well as a profound personal opportunity to grow and contribute to the evolving education marketplace.”

Reflecting on my initial goals, I began with a hopeful note that the coursework would aid in my desire to be a contributor to my profession. As I am nearer to the end of my career than the beginning, I wished to maintain relevance by broadening my creative toolkit with flexible applications of innovative skills in a dynamic educational context.

As I contemplate how my initial goals have changed, and why they have changed, I recognize that the end of the sequence of instruction is in reality a time for a new beginning; a time to refresh or update my stated goals before I end my course of studies. I think in some aspects my initial goals are largely unchanged. On the other hand, I would now describe these goals as more clearly defined, clarified, and synthesized due to my experiences in the MAET program. As I practiced mentoring skills during the summer cohort, I became confident that I would now be prepared to offer after school professional development for my peers in some of the latest applications, helping teachers to meld technology into their instruction with a TPACK perspective.

Through my research, I also was deeply impressed with the work of the physics education reformers. In concert with my initial goal to help classroom teachers, I now feel qualified to create a support network for physics teachers in my area. I feel confident in providing the leadership required to share a vision for pedagogical reform and to foster and orchestrate a local support system for physics teachers.

Finally, I appreciate that I now have the required skills to develop an effective online class. While at the onset of my goal setting, I had limited experience in this genre, I now feel qualified to contribute to the evolving marketplace with classes of my own design. I understand more clearly the energy and creativity that will be required to produce a quality online product.

The quotation at the top of the page was given to me by my first official boss. Throughout my career, the simple words: "Tomorrow there will be more to do" have guided my goals and provided deep motivational comfort. In setting the goals for my master's degree, I see the continuing influence of the wisdom of John Wooden.