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Technology and Learning
Fall 2011

Professional Learning Plan

When creating a professional learning plan is important to begin by assessing one's strengths, weaknesses, knowledge, and skills. Since the year 2005, I have obtained an associate's degree in computer technology, a bachelor's degree in computer science, and I am currently working on a master's degree in instructional technology. I have gained many skills relating to technology during my college career. However, I spent quite a few years prior to college learning many things pertaining to computer technology on my own. Before starting college I pretty much mastered photo editing and graphic design. The reason I had such a passion for pictures is because having five little ones it was hard to buy diapers let alone pay for film developing. I missed out on a lot of photos of my kids. When digital cameras were introduced I went crazy. Before you now way my good friend Jeannie and I started our own little business making photo clocks, photo calendars, photo T-shirts, photo buttons, and many other photo products. One year between the months of October leading up to Christmas in December I think we had orders for least 50 photo clocks. I remember us spending hours working on a template for the clock numbers. We had to make sure those numbers were in their correct spots.

I spent many other hours on my own, prior to college, learning Microsoft Office applications, many desktop publishing applications, how to connect printers and scanners, as well as installing their drivers. I even started messing around with HTML code. Finally the time came when I realized that it was best to obtain certificates or a degree proving that I knew what I was doing. Of course during college I found there was a lot more to learn and excited me. I am currently a website developer and my dream is to teach others. I originally enrolled in the Master of Technology (MTEC) graduate program in Kent State University's college of technology and learned that I could also obtain a PhD in technology through Kent State. However, after researching I found that I was more interested in the Instructional Technology (ITEC) graduate program. Therefore I changed degree programs. After changing programs I found that I am equally interested in perhaps obtaining a position in a school or college faculty development center.

I have many strengths and skills pertaining to technology that include, desktop applications, virtual applications, networking, troubleshooting, operating systems, Web servers, programming languages such as PHP, ASP, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, and so on. I understand many platforms as well as how to install them on servers such as course management systems, shopping cart, WordPress, forum platforms, and so on. One thing that I have I have learned is that regardless of how high a degree you have, especially pertaining to computer technology, you must continue to stay up-to-date in your knowledge and skills. Obtaining a Masters degree in technology is a good thing,

but to stay a master one must continue to learn. Technology is ever so changing in sophistication.

As a website designer I am using technology to create websites from scratch, shopping carts, interactive Web forms, research, and to easily keep in touch with clients, some I have never even met face-to-face. I use technology more hours in a day then I don't. I anticipate the use of technology in a future teaching position in many of the same ways that my own teachers have used. I'll continue to use technology for my own benefit in the future as well. Not only do keep current in up-to-date on what I already know, but also to learn new things. For example, I am very interested in learning more about video editing, how do design widgets and mobile applications, and as much as I can about database platforms for course management, blogs, forums, and shopping carts, as well as designing them. I know that I will eventually, as time permits, learning things on my own. I have found that many introductory courses I have taken in college had left me wanting to learn more. Therefore I know I will be a lifelong learner even if it means learning on my own.

I am very comfortable in my use of technology and I do not foresee any future problems in that area. However, there is always room for improvement. I have created many projects and then later found I should've done it a different way after learning something new. The key is to continue to learn how to do things better. This class is open my eyes up to a lot of things I did not know existed. I had no idea how many high-quality, free resources are out there, not only for teachers, but students as well. When I created my own website I set up a page specifically for tutorials. My plan was to build a list of tutorials to share with others. However, between college work and website work, I haven't had time. This class has encouraged me to get busy on it. I feel that doing so would not only help others in terms of learning, it would build my portfolio of knowledge even bigger. This can only help me concerning future employment.

The three goals I would like to complete are (1) complete my master's degree, (2) create a list of tutorials on my website created by me, as well as others willing to share, (3) create an organized list of links on my website to all the resources I have found while researching information for projects that I have completed in this class. I plan to obtain my master's degree by the year 2014. I will measure my progress by planning a program of study. I plan to create the tutorial and resource lists by the end of this coming summer based on all the links I have already bookmarked. I can measure this progress by removing each bookmark as I add the link to the list. Once all the bookmarks are gone I will never add another one. Any new information I find worth sharing will be immediately added to these lists.

My ultimate goal, however, is to be a lifelong learner. Not only do I feel is important to learn new things, I feel is equally important to stay up-to-date and current with technology and I will strive to do just that.