
Professional Learning Plan for Tachelle Nettles

Even as an adult I often hear people say I don't know what I want to be when I grow up. Growing up is hard, it comes with some many responsibilities and choices. One of the biggest choices we make in life is our career choice. Let's face it if you're not happy with your career, it can affect many other aspects of your life. The idea of creating a professional learning plan is great. The best way to get to where you want to be is to first have a goal and then know where you stand so you can take the necessary steps to achieve that goal.

Assessing one's on skills is a difficult task. No one wants to admit they're bad at doing some things, yet we know in our hearts that we are better at some things than others. Technology is my field, it excites me, it motivates me and at times it intimidates me. I love technology but I also realize how powerful it is and how it's nearly impossible to know everything there is to know about technology. Technology changes frequently and rapidly, what's hot today is old news tomorrow. So let's see where I fit in this technologically advanced world. I attribute my strengths to the fact that I have a background and experience working with computers. I am familiar with many technologies and have some experience with programming, web design, multiple MS software applications, Adobe Photoshop and others. I also have obtained A+ certification and my Network+ certification both while working on my Masters. I am passionate about technology and continually look to improve my current skills as well as gain new skills. I lack knowledge and extensive experience working with course development software or learning management systems. I have minimal experience with Macintosh computers, and I haven't actually obtained expertise in any areas. In the future I'd like to work as an Instructional Technology Specialist either in a school district or for a college or university. I'd also like to design educational software for children. The use of technology will be instrumental in each of these positions and also being able to support users of the technology.

By knowing what my strengths and weaknesses are I can better prepare myself for the future. I must work on having an area of expertise that will help to make me more marketable, but at the same time maintain knowledge and experience with other areas and technologies. I want to learn more about the applications used by educators and become comfortable enough with them to teach them to others. Because of the nature of technology, there may be times when I may not have up-to-date knowledge on particular technologies. The need for continuing education and professional development is therefore a must. I'm comfortable with the fact that I pick up on new skills rather effortlessly and actually tend to know more than I realize. Sometimes things I consider to be common knowledge or uncomplicated is just so new and exciting to learners.

I'm a goal-oriented person and I love to challenge myself. The following are the goals I have set for myself:

- **Design and implement an educational software program**
 - In order to obtain this goal I have to continue researching educational theories as they relate to multimedia learning and children, and come up with the content and design for my software program.
 - I would like to begin this project in the spring; and with persistence and dedication have a prototype within a year. This goal will require a lot of research before even getting started.
- **Design a website that overviews multiple educational applications available for educators and students**
 - This website will have training, videos, solutions and more to help educators learn how to use technology in the classroom
 - This can be an ongoing project due to the fact that technology is always changing. I feel like this is something I can begin prior to the end of the school year and actually have up in running by summer if not sooner.

For my two goals I feel like the courses that I have taken in the ITEC program will support me in creating well developed software and also an informative website. I have been introduced to learning theories and have gained a greater appreciation for how people learn. I can use that knowledge to support me in my desire to create educational software that actually enhances learning. By learning about different technologies from my other courses I can now take that information and share it with others. The other two would just require my motivation and effort.

As I've stated, I believe that having a Professional learning plan is a great idea. It allows me to recognize where I am and then allow me to regain focus. It's so easy to lose sight of our goals and this is just one tool that can help us get back on track. I will continue to work on my professional development; graduate school is the perfect opportunity along with the pursuance of personal and academic goals. I have the plan so there's no room for excuses.