Philosophy of the Division of Education Essay

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Educational Philosophy Essay

Teachers walk into classrooms every morning and teach, but doing just that is not enough. It is often said that children are the future. Teachers educate that future. That is why the University of Mary’s mission is to develop teacher leaders who are committed to excellence. For students to receive the education that they deserve, teachers must work for excellence. Therefore, development of such leaders requires teachers be responsible for student learning, demonstrate pedagogical content knowledge, and display professional characteristics.

The first thing teacher leaders who are committed to excellence need to do is take responsibility for their student’s learning. Educating students is the job of a teacher. Teachers go to school to learn different ways to teach students and the best ways through which students learn. Part of this knowledge includes assortments of assessment methods. Educators have to use many different evaluations to see if students understand the material, and the evaluations need to match the assignment. When assessing progress it is important for teachers to remember that not all children test well. Also, in order to keep children engaged, they need a variety of activities. Activities such as worksheets and games provide a proper selection and test the child’s understanding at the same time. Teachers then must study the assessments to see how well the students learned the information. They must look at how well the practices worked and fix those that did not work so changes can be made to create the best opportunities to learn. This opportunity includes creating an environment where students may learn successfully. A classroom is to be a place where students feel safe and welcome. Students need to feel comfortable in the environment so they are open to learning and working with the teacher and other students. Children who are intimidated by the class may be too scared to ask questions and will not learn the subject matter. For example, students should interact and get to know each other in order to be comfortable. The classroom, also, should not cause a distraction. Students deserve an environment that is stimulating and engaging yet will not cause discomfort in any way that is distracting.

The second thing a teacher leader must do is to demonstrate strong pedagogical content knowledge. It is essential that teachers thoroughly understand the material they are to teach. Educators then must be able to pass that material on to the students. In order to accomplish this successively a teacher needs an array of instructional strategies. Each student learns a different way. Some need visual cues while others need to physically perform hands-on work to understand the material. Educators must have different activities that incorporate all the different learning styles. Teachers must know the content in order to be flexible for each student’s learning needs. Some children may be more advanced and deserve to be challenged while others are struggling with the topic and need extra help to understand. By knowing the subject matter, educators can adjust the course for these needs.

Lastly, teacher leaders are to display professional characteristics. Teachers require strong communication skills. They must be able to work with colleagues and students. If educators do not communicate well they will not be able to pass on material to students or work efficiently with co-workers. The need for communication in turn affects how well a teacher leader can promote relationships. Teachers need to have bonds with their classes so all can cooperate and enjoy the time in school. Parents and teachers need relationships so there is trust in the education and life experiences the child will receive. Positive relationships between colleagues are also important because they create a supportive learning atmosphere. Communication and relationships will help build the instructional planning skills needed by teacher leaders. Teachers with these skills will be able to work with others to plan the best lessons for students. Planning skills need to be flexible to work around unexpected interruptions and fit to each class’s level. Planning must include the necessary content yet contain a variety of activities to keep students stimulated. The final professional characteristic is to participate in professional practices. Learning new practices and staying current in the field is vital.

Dedication to excellence is what is needed in a teacher. Student learning, content knowledge, and professional characteristics are needed for excellent teacher leaders. Without taking the responsibility for student learning, students will not learn to the best of their abilities. A demonstration of content knowledge is necessary to meet individual needs and for strategies to work effectively. Professional characteristics enhance the educational atmosphere with communication skills, healthy relationships, and planning skills. It is essential teachers walk in every morning and teach for excellence.