

Overall Program Reflection

Obtaining a Masters' Degree has been a long-time personal goal. It is the culmination of several years' work over two different university programs. The courses offered have brought a breadth of knowledge to both my personal and professional life. I have enjoyed learning about the history of the craft while also assimilating some of the best practices in curriculum delivery and research. Effectively reflecting on the program's effects on my future practice is a bit difficult while still so closely involved in finishing the process, but there are features that have already made an impact on my professional practice and personal ideals.

Impact on Practice

Several of the classes have been specifically helpful in my area of teaching. As the teacher for 200 Kindergarten through Eighth grade students I have found the curriculum development and diverse learning strategies to be very helpful. In addition to creating curriculum for the children I am also responsible for technology training and support to a campus of 25 staff members. Courses specifically geared toward higher level technology integration have been particularly helpful in giving me ideas to share with my staff in their continuing technology education. With the knowledge gained from several of the curriculum based courses I will continue encourage my staff to create lesson plans that include differentiated instruction techniques and diverse learning strategies.

It was the History of American Education course, *Foundations of American History* one of the first I had taken in the CSUB program, which made a significant impact on my professional practice. I had read limited amounts of educational history previously, mostly focusing on the judicial cases that affected educational practice and

was surprised to recognize the cyclical nature in which our educational attitudes have evolved. I found the history fascinating, and the fact that much of what we face today, curriculum delineation, pressures from federal government, and parental disinterest are not new concepts but rather an overall social attitude that has involved through centuries. Armed with this knowledge I am better able to put the current societal pressures into perspective.

Impact on Self

Completing the program allows me a sense of personal satisfaction as well as the knowledge that allows me to be a better educator. The cliché, “knowledge is power” applies in my case. Each of the courses, and especially those that focused on the legal and ethical issues within technology education enhanced my ability to deal with the day to day running of my technology program. I am keenly more aware of the issues of plagiarism and intellectual property while also having a set of tools that I can help others assimilate into their professional practice. It is the Program’s impact on my psychological development that will take distance from the process to fully evaluate.

Plans for the Future

My Masters’ Project, creation of a California Missions resource website for students, teachers, and parents, will be an ongoing labor of love. It was my hunt for resources that made me keenly aware of the importance of increased access to the historical sources that are available through studying the California Missions and that much more can be done to allow scholars of all ages to enjoy these valuable resources. I have already made arrangements with the head of historical artifacts at Mission San

Carlos to have my students involved in a process of photographing and cataloging important Mission-era artifacts for increased access by researchers.

Future plans include the hope for an advanced degree. The research that I conducted in preparation for my Project has given me several ideas that could culminate into a Doctoral thesis. I am specifically interested in the impact of integrating primary source material into history/social studies curriculum as well as the best methods with which to do so; physical versus virtual. It has always been my personal philosophy that education is an ongoing experience in one's life. I endeavor to learn more each day and look forward to a future that continues to allow me to spark others life-long love of learning as well as maintaining my own path of continued understanding.