Philosophy in the University of Mary Education Program:

Developing Teacher Leaders Committed to Excellence

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The University if Mary is a private, Catholic university that was founded to prepare leaders who are ready to serve the common good and use a set of Benedictine values. I chose this school because I believe in these values that the University of Mary has established. Each Benedictine value I feel strives to push a student to be the best. Also it could be said that the values not only affect the students but the University’s programs as well. Each program serves to strive towards those Benedictine values and also the mission statement that the University of Mary as founded. The University even goes so far to give each of its programs its own mission statement. The Department of Education also has its own mission statement that states our mission is to: Develop Teacher Leaders Committed to Excellence. Under this Mission it has three pivotal points for students. Students must be leaders who: Take responsibility for student learning, demonstrate pedagogical content knowledge, and teachers who display professional characteristics. Each of the points is an important aspect of being a part of the Department of Education.

Teachers must be leaders who, in order to take responsibility for student learning, must: use a variety of student assessment methods, create a learning environment, and reflect on teaching practices to improve student learning. I believe that using different assessment methods for each student if a key component of teaching. Not every student is going to be the same, there could be a plethora of different aspects going on in the student’s life. A student could be dealing with anything ranging from physical, emotional, socioeconomic, or learning difficulties. Also the student should have an environment that is suitable for optimal learning. Teachers should create an environment where a student can feel safe, comfortable, and to be ready to engage in learning. Also, a teacher should always reflect and improve the practice as well. In a world where anything can change at the drop of a hat, a teacher should be prepared for the students. A teacher should be capable of reflection, changing, reforming, and utilizing new practices to improve the learning experience. In conclusion, a teacher should be there to make certain that the student has the most capable and stable of learning environments.

A teacher must also be a leader who demonstrates pedagogical content knowledge. This includes: effectively teaching the content of the chosen discipline, use a variety of instructional strategies, and adapt to the individual needs of students. Of all the things a teacher is capable of being, one of them is a leader. A teacher should also have a comprehensive knowledge of what is being taught and know how to teach it. Teaching content can come in a variety of ways such as auditory, visual, or kinesthetic. Each of these, are strategies that a teacher can use, to help a student learn the content knowledge.

Also teachers should be leaders who display professional characteristics such as: strong communication skills, strong instructional planning, fostering relationships with the community to support student learning, and also engage in appropriate professional practices. If there is one thing that a teacher must be comfortable doing it is to know how to talk, and to talk proficiently. A good set of communication skills can help convey the content easier to the student, and establishing relationships. A teacher must also have a tentative schedule and plan things thoroughly ahead of time. A set schedule can lead to a more easily flowing classroom and can help students get into a routine, which is important in learning environments. Also establishing a good relationship with other colleagues, parents, and the community is important to a teacher as well. These relationships can help strengthen the students learning experience and academic career. It is also important that a teacher also engage in appropriate professional practices. A teacher is a leader of teaching some of the precious things that a person can have, children. So a teacher should set an example with the way he or she conducts a classroom and themselves.

In conclusion a teacher is many things. A teacher is a person who is: a leader, a caregiver, and important person in a child’s life. Each of these are important roles, which combined are some of the many faucets that a teacher can be. That is why the Department of Education at the University of Mary, has a set of values that I feel upholds these important aspects of being a teacher, and keeps the department moving forward.