

Since I began teaching, I have felt a sense of urgency to incorporate technology in my lessons and emphasize the importance of using technology to reach academic and personal goals. Over the years, I have told my students of how large a role technology will play in their future and to prepare for working with technology. As a seventh grade teacher, I introduce students to personal goal setting and begin exploring the skills needed for their desired future job. I know the contributors of future must have the knowledge of effectively utilizing technology so they can be prepared to make their impact. Being able to adequately prepare the students for the demands of the future is the reason why I chose the Masters of Educational Technology (MAET) degree.

When applying to Michigan State University for the MAET program, I had the personal goal of becoming more capable of guiding students and staff to reach their potential. This goal has not changed and remains a priority. However, the method of impacting students and staff has changed for me. Within my classroom, I know I can personally reach and empower students to effectively use technology to reach their goals. I know I can reach a much broader group of students if I am in a position to guide the many other teachers who are preparing our students. I want to use my MAET degree to guide teachers to be effective in their usage of technology so they can support an entire population of students who must be prepared for the technological demands of the future. I hope to do this by reaching my goal of gaining employment as an educational technology coordinator or consultant within a regional education service.

Before potentially moving outside of the classroom, I set the goal of becoming a better instructor for the computer applications class I teach. Surprisingly, no specific endorsement is required to teach this class in the state of Michigan. Anyone who is certified to teach at the grade level could be an instructor. I have never wanted to fill in as just "anyone." I have used my education in the MAET program to directly impact my teaching. I have made a concerted effort to have my students experience a higher quality education that not just anyone can provide. My goal to become a better instructor has not changed and I continue to implement many of the programs and teach the skills I have acquired from the MAET program.

My final goal I proposed was to provide economically disadvantaged students with ways to become successful and escape poverty. I believed if I became certified to teach technology and promoted the use of technology in low socio-economic communities, these students would develop the skills necessary to work well-paid jobs. Providing the opportunity for students to leave poverty will always be a goal of mine, but I know there are much larger pieces to this puzzle. On becoming a master in educational technology, I hope to use my credentials and experience to influence educational policy. I hope to influence our legislators by promoting equal access to technology and educational funding. In this way, students will be provided the best environment to break out of poverty.