

Professional Goals Statement

Don Erickson

I am remarkably happy as an educator working in the classroom each and every day. My major career goals have always focused on becoming a better educator. I plan to use Michigan State University's graduate program to fulfill my desire to continue being the best educator I can through knowledge and experience. Another important career goal I have is the desire to take on more leadership roles throughout the school. For example, I am currently in the transition of becoming the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) coordinator for the entire school. During the next few years I would like to continue earning more leadership roles, and the P-12 School and Postsecondary Leadership courses will assist with this particular goal. Additionally, the Technology and Learning courses will assist in achieving my goal of using even more technology in the classroom to enhance student engagement and learning. I am currently blessed to have a classroom iPad, multiple classroom laptops, and a Mimio board (which is similar to a SMARTboard). I am excited to learn how to further use these technologies as teaching tools within the classroom. I chose this particular concentration area because I feel this degree is the best approach to obtaining my professional goals in education.

In my undergraduate studies I became very familiar with Blackboard while taking online courses. Online learning fits my current situation best because I live in the Upper Peninsula six hours away from East Lansing. The online Master of Arts degree in Education will allow me to continue teaching and to attend the best university in America. I also gravitate toward online learning because of the increased communication between teacher and student. I appreciate the accessibility to the teacher and course materials at anytime from anywhere. Similarly, I enjoy the truly student-centered method used in online education.

If accepted, I will work relentlessly while pursuing my dream of a graduate degree. I know the best path to achieve my dream is through this graduate degree at Michigan State. I take pleasure in knowing that I will gain immeasurable knowledge which will make me a better educator. Through the countless online interactions with instructors and students, I recognize I will continue to grow as a teacher in and out of the classroom.