

"To Teach Is To Touch Your Own Future: Teachers, From Survival to Success"

(Presentation Proposal at the Kappa Delta Pi 43rd Biennial Convocation)

A panel of educators will discuss the different stages of development. These educators (from the higher education, public school, & parochial school) will share their personal experiences in this journey and the tools that helped them to reach their destination successfully.

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an insight in the teaching profession, whether it is for a beginning teacher or an experienced one! The stages of life cycle will be described in detail through the ISLAM model: Immersion, Survival, Learning, Acceptance, and Modification.

Stages of development:

Immersion: This stage is described as the entry stage to the teaching profession. This is the honey moon stage, where the new teacher is very excited about his/her first job. Little does he/she realize that it takes more than a bachelor's degree to be a teacher. Teachers can sink or swim at this stage and most will worry about maintaining their job and limiting themselves to completion of the syllabus or course material.

Survival: This is the second stage of teacher development and the most critical one as teachers go through the anxiety, frustration, and awe whether they made a good choice of getting into the teaching profession.

Learning: At this stage teachers are expected to engage in learning that it takes more than knowledge to become a teacher. They learn the various life skills, patience, tolerance, dealing with other human factors in addition to their students, like parents, administrators, colleagues, and other community members.

Acceptance: Acceptance is the stage where an individual is able to accept the fact that teaching is not just teaching from the books but it is dealing with many other challenging factors. Teachers begin to accept the fact that for teachers to excel in their profession they have to go beyond the basic tools of teaching and into the real world.

Modification: This is the final stage of the model and this stage is reached by only those who excel in their profession. At this stage teachers modify their thinking, teaching techniques, and their own myths about teaching. They begin to accept the reality and

become moral and social agents. Teaching at this stage work in the service of humanity as a mission rather than a job or career.

The presenters will provide tools that can help new teachers reach their destination. In the teaching profession teachers can not only help in improving the lives of their students but in doing so, can really help in improving their own lives. For example, by teaching disrespectful or intolerant students how to show respect and tolerance a teacher can himself/herself learn the skill of demonstrating these qualities in life.

The most essential tools that can make teachers successful are namely, mentoring; counseling; modeling; intrinsic motivation; and moral obligation. The presentation will also highlight another important dimension of teaching, diversity. Although most teachers may take education courses in diversity, very few really do understand and empathize with it.

The topic relates very well with the Convocation theme, Opening Gates to the Future. In spite of the innovative changes in education through technology, human factors cannot be ignored. The many answers to the current problems in American schools can be found in better teachers, who eventually will promote better students!

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