

## A New Beginning

Upon beginning my masters degree, my professional goal was to expand my knowledge and further develop my ability to assess student's needs and facilitate learning at the highest level. I wanted to create a learning environment that stimulates the curiosity and minds of my students and challenge them to research and seek solutions in the areas of science and mathematics.

One key motivation for me to pursue a master's degree is my students. My current and future students deserve an education that will expand their minds and prepare them for the future. The more knowledge and education I receive, the more I will be able to provide them. I am passionate about enabling students with opportunities to learn through new and creative teaching strategies, hands on experiments classroom projects, etc.

While I currently hold certification in social studies education, my goal was to expand my knowledge with a master's in science and mathematics to become a more valuable, adverse and highly qualified educator. With STEM becoming a major aspect of our society and in education, it is extremely important that I have the ability to educate my students properly with the most current and creative coursework and teaching strategies available. As an educator of gifted students, I want to challenge my students and open their minds to exploration and research.

## The Finish Line

Now that I am about to graduate with my masters degree I see my original goals have remained but a new goal has been added. I started out on this journey to expand my education with the same motivation I have now; my students. My goal of expanding my knowledge of science and mathematics teaching strategies has guided me throughout my coursework and research. I feel confidence and excitement when teaching mathematics and science.

While I have achieved my original goal, during the course of my master's degree a new goal of helping my students find joy and excitement in math has sprung. As a student and adult, math and I had a disagreeable relationship; I despised math. Through a math focused master's I have come to love teaching math to students in a way I had never viewed math before. Math is a language, is flexible, is creative, and is interpreted differently by individuals. I have seen the transformation of my student's mindsets towards math and their conceptual understandings soar since finishing up my master's

degree. Prior to starting my master's, I did not believe my feelings towards math would change but as I worked they did. This is when my new goal came to be. I wanted my students to find a love of math just as I did.

With my goal of expanding my knowledge base of mathematics and science, I have been able to provide my students with an enhanced and broader learning experience and better understanding of the ever-changing world we live in. With more in-depth knowledge, I have an even greater opportunity and responsibility to inspire my students to want and to achieve a higher education for themselves. Additionally, obtaining more insight on curriculum development and instructional skills has helped me develop into a more innovative, well rounded and confident educator.