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Intro to Education

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Mission

John F. Kennedy once stated, “Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.” An educator is the sole provider of developing those greatest abilities by proposing professional characteristics, developing education plans, and accommodating to every individual’s needs within his or her own classroom.

When looking at the possible professional characteristics of a person in the teaching profession, one must look at how one conducts himself or herself in the teaching environment. There are multiple aspects of this including the communication skills of the instructor, the ability of lesson or instructional planning, relatability to several different adults as well as students that a teacher will be conducting himself or herself around on a day to day basis, and finally being able to teach the curriculum at a professional manner suitable for children in the classroom setting. I feel all of these characteristics are essential to being an effective teacher, but the one that stands alone in my opinion is an instructor’s communication skills. If a teacher is not approachable or easy to talk to, the students or other faculty members will avoid conversation as well as possible questions from students. After the communicational skills are developed, I believe instructional skills come next. I feel that if a teacher has an awareness of good instructional lesson planning, there will be less of a challenge to keep his or her students engaged during the instructional period, therefor resulting in the student’s success. Planning is a teacher’s number one priority in order to have a positive classroom with active learners and is at the core for responsibility in student learning.

I believe that teachers are completely responsible for a student’s education plan and are directly related to a student’s success in the classroom. Every student is different, that is no surprise, but the teacher’s ability to educate all students of different backgrounds, ethnicity, home life, and gender correlate to the assessment of the student’s knowledge. Multiple factors must be taken into account when thinking of how to positively educate students including classroom setting, correct lesson planning with the curriculum given, and time. I believe time and experiences make a teacher better through trial and error. I cannot theorize an influential hallmark to teaching without first trying it with actual students in an actual classroom setting. I think that is the same with every teacher out there and as more students come through, a broader perspective of how to educate a vast number of diverse students becomes easier to the teacher allowing him or her to take full responsibility for a student’s education and learning.

Since every student will learn differently, there is need for a different adaptation to his or her individual learning. Not every student is at the same educational level within the grades of the students, so I believe teachers must be very flexible and accommodate for those different learning levels for all students. Teachers must do this to engage every student in each class period and do this in a way where everybody’s needs are met in his or her own learning level. I believe a way to do this effectively is implementing different methods of teaching throughout a school year or semester with students. Finally, I believe that taking the material being taught and turning it into an easier demonstration to make the students focus more on why this is being taught, instead of getting through the class with a grade is essential. I believe that by doing so, the student will not only be engaged more, but he or she will also be able to take the information and put it from his or her working memory, into his or her long term memory. Making the content beneficial to students is a necessity I believe every teacher should strive for and I know that will be one of my main priorities.

John F. Kennedy had a strong opinion on the importance of education in developing a great nation and that educators are essential in giving that guidance. I believe that I can provide that guidance throughout my career as a teacher giving the professional characteristics it takes in the classroom to maintain a functional room, develop educational plans and ideas that would allow students to perform successfully in the classroom as well as the world after school, and finally having the mind set to accommodate all students with diverse backgrounds with different levels of ability. Through those guidelines I hope to become a successful educator.