**Philosophy of Education**

As an effective teacher, I view my professional identity in five domains: planned curriculum, bringing vulnerability to my lesson planning, knowing when to assess my students, accommodating, and fostering new perspectives. My approach to teaching is to provide a safe space to inspire and nurture student learning through encouraging critical thinking and broadening students’ knowledge in relation to their own experiences and interests. From my experience this will allow students’ experiences and their reflections to be a basis to expand and challenge knowledge within the curriculum guidelines. As an educator, I want to provide intellectual risk-taking opportunities where students will explore their strengths and facilitate interactive learning with their peers.

My goal is to provide a classroom environment where students will be engaged in the curriculum and have co-ownership of the learning space. The emphasis will be to make learning visible on the walls by inspiring students learning through their creativity and imagination. My students will learn critical thinking skills to effectively construct and communicate their ideas, observations, and apply it to their learning. I will incorporate active learning through cross-curricular activities that are based on student interests and prior knowledge. Having a cross-curricular model in the classroom will engage students in multiple learning objectives and broaden their understanding in the curriculum. The class will have opportunities to discuss and reflect on their knowledge, as well as their peers' understanding and learning. Throughout the day, students will be encouraged to demonstrate critical thinking by problem-solving in group settings. Students will learn how to become a part of a stronger community and create meaningful relationships within the classroom. During discussions, I will use “think, pair, share” where students will be given the opportunity to reflect on the question, pair with students seated next to them, and then be able to share ideas collaboratively as a large group.

Students will be evaluated by assessing their capacity and knowledge during individual reflection and peer group discussions. I will know when to assess students when I bring value to their learning. As students work individually and in a peer group setting, I will walk around the room conducting authentic observations on student learning. Additionally, I will invite students to come work with me at the u-shaped table so I can assess their prior knowledge and be able to extend their learning through their strengths and interests. Through this method, I will be able to implement accommodations and modifications for students that come across barriers in their learning. I find it important that students strengthen their skills to achieve their own learning goals in the classroom.

My hope is that students will feel a strengthened bond not only with their peers but also with me through this environment and open discussions. The classroom will be a safe space where students will feel empowered to share their knowledge and reflections. This will provide students a nurturing environment where their emotions and feelings are being valued. In my classroom, I want students to be intellectual risk-takers in asking questions and not to be afraid to make mistakes in their process of learning. Students will feel that mistakes allow them to facilitate their learning and draw on new conclusions.

 I believe students can reflect and share through collaboration which will promote inclusivity and diversity amongst student cultures. Incorporating cultures and diversity into the curriculum allows education to come to life through students’ experiences. I would like for the nature of my classroom to foster a culture sensitive and inclusive environment which positively impacts students’ interactions with their peers.

My goal as an educator is to continually participate in expanding my professional knowledge and not being afraid to make mistakes in my own learning. In doing so, my hope is that my own vulnerability will act as a guide to inspire and empower students in their education.