

LEADERSHIP by influencing policy and practice in educational communities through advocacy and example

Summary of Assignment: Team Teaching Assignment

This assignment allowed us to pair up with a fellow teacher in our school or district. We then worked together to develop and evaluate several days worth of lesson plans. After teaching the same material in the same manner, we met regularly to reflect on our experiences. This assignment resulted in practice in both teamwork and leadership.

Connection to student learning objective (SLO): Leadership

Although this assignment only included cooperation with one other teachers, developing these relationships is a vital part of building a sense of community. Opening these lines of communication correspond with “developing people” as noted in “Pooh on Management”. Such relationships will be beneficial as leadership develops.

In terms of setting examples, this assignment allowed both myself and my teaching partner to demonstrate exemplar behavior in multiple situations. Initially, we each had the opportunity to share best practice and experience with each other. As our project developed, other teachers began to ask questions about what we were doing. This allowed us to se a good example for the school as well.

Person Implications of Assignment within the SLO

Prior to completing this assignment, our district was having difficulty getting all of the schools, and this teacher in particular, to implement the prescribed curriculum. As

the district support provider for this program, I was responsible for helping this teacher use the lessons in her classroom. Historically, there had been much resistance on her part.

This assignment allowed me to connect with this teacher on a level where we were both cooperating on an equal level. In this situation, the teacher and I were able to discuss the curriculum, as well as its benefits when properly implemented. Since working on this project, the teacher with whom I worked has both changed her attitude about the program and has begun to use it with her students.

My experience with leadership based on this assignment showed me how to use teamwork to motivate and gain the support of colleagues. There have been many cases in my district where the necessary “buy in” from teachers was just not there. This assignment reminded me of the fact that not every teacher in every school has the time or the initiative to be convinced by the research alone. As a leader, it is my job to translate the researched based reasoning into pragmatic lessons that can be immediately used by teachers on a widespread scale.