Student Learning Objective #5: Leadership

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**Student Learning Objective (SLO):** Leadership by influencing policy and practice in educational communities through advocacy and example.

**Description of assignment:** The assignment was to write a grant for over $100,000 that could lead to the development of a program to last at least two years. I had to identify a problem and use the grant as a way to help solve the problem.

**Connection to SLO:** This SLO specifically refers to “influencing policy and practice” which is something that if the grant were approved would definitely accomplish. The grant is used to help develop a way to take the Immediate Feedback Devices (IFDs) used for my action research project and have them move beyond use in just my classroom to other classrooms around my school and my district. It describes the creation of a professional development program that would influence policy and practice around the school district through the example I set in my project. The grant is essentially an extension of the two month study I performed and will help develop lessons for others to implement the use of IFDs in their classrooms effectively.

This assignment shows leadership in the development of a program to write to curriculum for the use of IFDs in a high school chemistry class. It also allows for the practice of the curriculum so that it can become the best possible.

**Reflection on learning and teaching:** Since the grant was due prior to the completion of my action research project, it forced me to look at the implications my research might have as well as possible ways to implement the use of IFDs in the future. These implications heavily impacted the discussion chapter of my action research project. This assignment forced me to take time and think about what I had learned during my research project, which in turn forced me to think about where this research might
proceed in the future. Though this was already a part of the action research assignment, having to write a grant proposal broadened my look at IFDs.

Another important aspect of this assignment was the confidence I gained in grant writing. In the past I have written grants for individual items, such as an LCD projector or the IFDs, but I had never even considered writing a grant of the magnitude required for this assignment. Though initially daunting, I was able to accomplish my goal and now I feel confident that, if asked, I could take a leadership role in writing a real grant. I now know the kind of detail that would be required of a person in such a leadership position.

This assignment also affect my teaching in that I have spent more time thinking about how to development more engaging and more effective lessons using the IFDs that the way that they were used during my action research project. During the planning phases for my project I was very new to the using the IFDs so I made many mistakes in the utilization of this new technology. Now having spent more time thinking about the IFDs with regards to their implementation and curriculum design I feel that I will be better prepare to use them in the future.