Professional Growth Plan

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 Leadership does not always require a title, but rather requires having the ability to influence and inspire. I have learned that different leadership styles and characteristics are used during different situations; depending on the assignment and the group of people that I lead. No one leadership style is the perfect approach, but rather a combination of styles and approaches is what produces positive results.

**My Leadership Style**

Throughout the years, I have learned to use a combination of leadership characteristics in both of my careers. I currently consider myself to be a transformational leader that has been placed in tough assignments because I place a strong focus on bringing positive change by transforming the way others in the organization think through a clear and focused vision. Having a strong vison is the foundation to transformational leadership. Effective leaders create clear and focused visions that guide the behavior of those that follow, by visualizing positive future outcomes and having the ability to communicate it with others (Northhouse, 2013). I always treat those that I lead as humans and inform them that although I am their leader; I am here to serve them and the organization as a whole. As I build stronger relationships, people’s actions will change and they realize that they are not doing things because I am their leader, but rather because their actions will result in overall success for the organization.

**Visionary**

As an educational technology leader; I want to be a visionary for my school district by inspiring and leading in developing, implementing, and integrating the latest technology to provide our students with an excellent education and transforming our district towards a clear vision of academic success.

**Philosophy of Educational Technology**

My philosophy of educational technology respects the diversity of all learners and provides customized learning opportunities. Educational technology will be used to enhance the overall learning experience throughout the district to promote active learning environments where students are more engaged with the course content that is being presented to them. It will also ensure that students are prepared for their future in the workforce. Educational technology allows students to extend their learning beyond the classroom by becoming engaged with their communities, other institutions, and people from around the world.

**My Short-Term Goals (Next 12 months)**

* By October 1, 2017, I plan to become a member of the Superintendent’s Academy at Monmouth University. It is comprised of five provide professional growth sessions throughout the 2017-2018 school year for aspiring superintendents. It will create a network of support for colleagues, establishes collaborative relationships, and allows for an exchange of conversations and experiences.
* By August 2018, I plan to have identified a topic and began research for my dissertation that interests me and will help support my vision as an educational technology leader.

**My Long-Term Goals (Next 3 years)**

* By May of 2020, I plan complete my doctoral degree and become a NJ School Superintendent.
* By December of 2020, I plan to have attended the U.S. Sergeants Major Academy in Fort Bliss, Texas and be promoted in the U.S. Army as a Command Sergeant Major.

References

Northouse, P. G. (2013). Leadeship: theory and practice (6th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: *Sage*.

Superintendent's academy. (n.d.). Retrieved August 13, 2017, from https://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-education/superintendent-s-academy.aspx

U.S. sergeants major academy: educating today's leaders for tomorrow. (n.d.). Retrieved August 13, 2017, from http://usasma.armylive.dodlive.mil/