

## Educational Vision

Educational opportunities are learner-focused and thus should be individualized, meaningful, and relevant. Formal learning experiences through explicit teaching are more impactful when educators align their content to reinforce concepts between disciplines over time. As educators, we seek to develop our expertise in content and curriculum, while balancing our understanding of the importance that educators must possess the dispositions and communication skills that allow all stakeholders to connect to the learning process. We seek to motivate students and engage their sense of inquiry to deepen relationship with the larger community of learners.

Layers of learning opportunities exist in abundance throughout the community. At the most formal layer, there are schools from birth through trade school and the university level to hone our knowledge and our enable our ability to learn. Under this layer, there are opportunities for continuing to enrich our lives from dance classes and cultural workshops to gardening seminars and financial management advice. Our communities respond to our natural curiosities and our need for continuous self improvement. An additional level exists with fundamental community resources that satisfy our need for information and opinions including library resources, news entities, and religious organizations. Each layer contributes to our learning and meaning-making. Each exemplifies our desire for making connections.

Educators are driven to impassion learners to develop their natural curiosities enriching themselves and serving their community for mutual benefits. Through formal learning experiences, we aid learners' acquisition of content, but also extend to their ability to work collaboratively to solve common or complex problems. We tap into learners' abilities to think critically and to question their own perspectives. When educators are able to develop a sense of cooperative learning, they allow learners to reflect on their knowledge acquisition and gain a deeper understanding of how individual talents, skills, and backgrounds can enrich their world.

Learning cannot occur if students feel threatened within their environment. Learning is a social process by which students must feel a sense of comfort in being able to make inquiries, test hypotheses, and share ideas. It is critical for educators and educational institutions to create a learning environment that balances structure with encouraging purposeful exploration. The intellectual and social development of all stakeholders should be celebrated to communicate that growth is valued.

My philosophy of learning has been molded by my experiences as a learner and teacher. As a learner, I have a natural curiosity to better understand how and why things function and interact. I am interested in self-improvement and I am intrinsically motivated to continue learning. As an educator, I believe that culture and life experiences should be embraced as they enhance learners' abilities to make associations, understand divergent perspectives, and deepen understandings.