Personal Growth Plan AY2019

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There's nothing like an accident to put things in perspective. In 2015, a motor vehicle accident t put me out of work for close to six months. While I recovered, I had time to reflect upon what is important in life. Being out of work for several months was a financial hardship. I could either recover and wallow in self-pity or come up with a plan to better our life. That is when I came up with a personal strategic plan.

I took the next couple of years to complete a degree at La Salle, explore launching my own consulting business, and start a terminal degree program. With the first two complete, I now find myself entering my second year as a doctoral student in Educational Technology Leadership at New Jersey City University. My focus in the upcoming two academic years is to continue to develop a strong academic background, develop as a member in the field of educational technology, and explore leadership skills.

There are three key areas plan of focus – Professional Development, Coursework, and Career.

**Professional Development**

Being involved in professional organizations has always been an activity that has given me much satisfaction. I find attending meetings to be intellectually stimulating, motivating, and personally joyful. However, as an introvert, they can also be particularly stressful. To overcome this, I have decided to push myself and overcome through repeated exposure. Then all that’s left is the best aspects of cultivating professional relationships and defining myself as a member of the professional communities

In the past year, I have worked hard on developing myself as a leader in the field of Educational Technology. In order to accomplish this, I have joined and become active in several professional societies - at a local, state, national, and international level. Over the past academic year, I have joined several organizations and societies.

American Educational Research Association - Within this research organization, I have joined the following special interest groups, or SIGs: Graduate Student Council; Technology, Instruction, Cognition, and Learning; Design and Technology; and Advanced Technologies for Learning. I have volunteered to be a peer reviewer for paper submissions for the 2019 AERA Annual Meeting in the following content areas: Design and Technology; Science, Teaching, and Learning; Instructional Technology; Learning and Instruction; and Technology-Based Environments.

Blackboard Exemplary Course Program - In early 2018, I completed training in the Blackboard ECP and, shortly after, reviewed my first course. I will continue to be involved with this program as it allows me to keep up with innovative approaches to course design within the framework of the Blackboard LMS platform. This is of particular interest to me as I am a Blackboard administrator at my institution, have provided training on its use to faculty and staff, and look to keep up on my design skills as I transition into a new phase of my career.

Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals - After being asked to chair the LGBTQIA Council at the Philadelphia Campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, I joined this consortium as a way to better engage with other professionals in the region. I have joined the regional group in the hopes of connecting and collaborating with local professionals with the goal of developing content and programming on my campus related to LGBTQIA issues.

As a service to my industry, I have reached out to different professional organizations offering my services as a reviewer. I have reviewed for the following organizations:

* American Educational Research Association
* Drexel University Assessment Conference
* Drexel University e-Learning 3.0 Conference
* The Generalists in Medical Education
* Educause 2019 ELI Annual Meeting
* IEEE TALE 2018
* U. Sciences e-Learning 3.0 Conference
* PETE&C

In addition to reviewing proposals, I have been a judge for the following events:

* Research Day: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Philadelphia Campus
* Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science - Region 1C
* SIIA CODiE Awards

Presentations I have given or have been accepted to give, over the past year included:

Create, Innovate, and Re-imagine the World with Robotics

A demonstration on the transformation of teaching and learning with robotics and drones

L. Ziegler,

D.J. Koch - Doctoral Research Assistant

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ; August 2017

Robotics and Simulation in Medical Education

D.J. Koch

NJCU Confucius Institute

Ningxia Province Academic Leaders’ Professional Teaching Capacity Training Delegation

Jersey City, NJ; November 2017

Innovate and Re-Imagine Education with Robotics and Drones

Robots in Clinical Training

D.J. Koch

NJCU Graduate Programs Webinar, April 2018

Proctoring - Lessons Learned

D.J. Koch, S.C. Wolfe

ExamSoft Assessment Conference 2018

Ft. Lauderdale, FL; June 2018

Utilizing Online Collaborative Tools to Promote New Learning

D.J. Koch

Magna Teaching with Technology Conference

St. Louis, MO; October 2018

Stepping Up Your Game with SAMR (submitted)

D.J. Koch, B. McCarty, C. Munn

PETE&C

Hershey, PA; February 2019

**Course Work**

In the first year of the doctoral program, the grades I earned during my coursework were sufficient to grant me membership into two honor societies based on academic achievement – Kappa Delta Pi and Pi Lambda Theta, both of which have an education focus.

In the next year, as I prepare for my dissertation research, I will focus on completing IRB training at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program. Upon completion, I will work with the research department to allow me to be a primary investigator on my own study which will be a break from the current paradigm where only faculty are permitted to do so.

**​Career**

I continue to have an interest in developing a consulting company focusing on evaluating and implementing educational technology solutions in the area of collaborative learning for college-level learners. In the meantime, I have spent a considerable amount of effort in creating contacts through professional organizations listed above. I have found the process of presenting at meetings and reviewing talk proposals both rewarding and stimulating. An added bonus is the development of new professional connections.

In the spring of 2018, I was asked to be the Chair of the LGBTQIA Council at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. My goal is to implement new procedures, institutionalize programming, and raise awareness of LGBTQIA issues for the faculty, staff, students, as well as our patients through a servant style of leadership (Northouse, 2018). As described above, I have joined the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals with the intent of introducing new programming for the community.

I continue to work to promote myself and others through speaking engagements at conferences and plan on submitting talk proposals in the next year for the following conferences:

* PETE&C (2019)
* ISTE (2019)
* ExamSoft Assessment Conference (2019)
* Higher Learning Commission - Annual Conference (2019)

References

Northouse, P. G. (2018). Leadership: Theory and practice. Sage publications.