

PERSONAL STATEMENT

My varied background, encompassing a terminal degree and experience in education with experience in marketing and administration, has consistently been grounded in technology and equips me with broad skills to better implement technology within an educational setting.

As an educator, I have watched the facility with technology of students rapidly outpace that of faculty. To engage and challenge the abilities and preferences of students, I must encourage faculty to apply technology integration where it can best help them and their students gain from the instructional process. Our goals are to equip students with the skills to make wise decisions in life and to succeed economically in the future. To that end, the future of education must involve technology, and at a mature state, technology will be inextricably interwoven within each school enhancing academics, administration, and the personal life skills of the greater school community. To succeed requires proactive administrative support of technology ready to address tough decisions on how to balance dollars for technology with faculty support. To successfully teach to the future needs of students will also require a re-examination of curriculum, teaching styles, and time demands of faculty. Encouraging life-long learning, building awareness of our role in a global economy and world of differences, and catering to the diverse needs of different learning preferences are realities for education in the 21st century.

Life-long learning starts with identifying what needs to be known and where to find answers. At my present school, I designed an Intranet to provide an academic portal for distributing instruction at the convenience of teachers and students. Incorporating reusable training tools such as videos, it minimizes redundant training, encourage self-sufficiency, and can be constantly updated. While I work to help teachers integrate technology so that the content, speed and skills of teaching better matches the learning needs of students, I encourage students to extend their skills and develop skills in asking questions and finding their own answers.

An awareness of global realities involves both building human bonds and making decisions based on accurately locating and interpreting data. Expanding student interactions beyond the classroom and school involves new communication technologies. As part of a small delegation selected by the State Department, I traveled to Armenia to introduce the Internet as a teaching tool to educators. I learned as much as I taught and returned to develop a collaborative relationship between our schools. Building facility with geographic information and positioning systems can expand student abilities to locate and interpret data accurately.

Accommodating the needs of diverse learners and utilizing a wide variety of communication tools can enable each student to find their own "voice," especially those for whom classroom participation is difficult. Internet communication tools can provide authentic audiences, build international understanding, and bring experts into the classroom. My dissertation research, on engaging female students in technology, identified many of the same barriers often faced by other minority groups. Collaborating with faculty, administration and parents to build awareness of recent research findings on differences in learning preferences will help all concerned enable students to successfully enter traditionally less pursued disciplines, such as technology, science and math.

As a professional administrator, I bring leadership in management and a dedication to customer service. Years of consulting experience enable me to configure and implement computer systems. In an earlier governmental appointment, I managed a sizeable secretariat budget. My defining talent lies in identifying needs and opportunities and then fostering the collaborative effort needed to bring them to a successful, timely implementation. Using the combined talents of my administrative, marketing and educational background, I am committed to enabling all to achieve to their greatest abilities.