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## Philosophy of Education

“The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Proverbs 18:15

The bible gives many examples of teaching and learning. It always refers and points to seeking knowledge and being wise. The definition of knowledge, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. If you read the Bible and see how practical teaching is, how hands-on the lessons are, we can see that as Jesus went around sharing knowledge not only with the people but with how the disciples work. The disciples' knowledge was on what was being taught, sharing the gospel, helping people, and practicing what they have learned from Jesus. Which brings me to my following thought: the very famous Benjamin Franklin was attributed to saying, “Tell me and I will forget. Teach me and I will remember. Involve me and I will learn.”<sup>1</sup> As I work with my students and consider so many possibilities of teaching methods and strategies, I consider these words and the truth in them. But I also think about words that have a greater impact such as, “You are the salt of the earth...” (Matthew 5:13) What truth we see in how we as educators can be the salt wherever we go!

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<sup>1</sup> 1999 October 8, Leader-Telegram, Expert: Community needed for safe schools by Christena T. O'Brien (Leader-Telegram staff), Quote Page B1, Column 1, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

As a Christian educator, we develop the capability and the desire to serve others: students, teachers and community, to acquire the knowledge of academics which is “the pursuit of truth which begins with a knowledge and understanding of God that leads to spiritual and moral understandings.”<sup>2</sup> I believe the purpose of education is to reach others with knowledge. Creating impactful and changing moments not in the educational but also the emotional, mental and spiritual areas. It’s to impact the student as a whole. Education is not only what the child studies and learns but also the upbringing; meaning the values and morals of a person. Teachers have a great influence on students' lives. A teacher must show love and respect to the students as they instruct the students in their academics. I believe students learn best when there is a classroom culture and an environment founded on trust, comfort and acceptance. Where the students feel comfortable making mistakes that turn into a positive learning moment; where students feel no fear of speaking and are a part of a positive, enriching, empowering environment.

As an educator, my role is to activate students' learning and give them a purpose for learning. How will an educator accomplish this? With the role of teaching there are many different pieces and areas in which a teacher like myself will need to work on in order to achieve the goal. Being familiar with child development will help me teach, interact and reach students. In collaboration with the use and implementation of the district curriculum into lesson planning, I can collect and execute resources that will support students' education. As an educator, I must create and put into practice lesson plans that will engage and support diverse learners in the classroom.

Another role I hold as an educator is supporting my students' learning by making sure they have all they need to be successful in their academics. This may include advocating for the

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<sup>2</sup> Nyack College School of Education Mission Statement 2018

students who may need additional support. This may include collecting evidence to help them receive a 504 accommodation or an Individualized Education Plan.

Support will not be limited to academics but may also require emotional support for the students. Students go through hardships at home, in school and their local community and I must be prepared to support my students wherever and whenever they may require this help. Within the roles of an educator, we have to build a relationship with the parents and the community. In order to better serve our students, we must build a partnership with the parents, colleagues and community support groups. It is extremely vital to create partnerships where the families can reach out to the teachers to bring solutions for circumstances that affect the students life outside the classroom. The teacher may send weekly letters home with news on what is happening in the classroom, what lessons will take place in the upcoming week. We're not limited to just local partnerships but also using technology. Using class dojo to communicate easier and effectively with families on students' progress. Families like how easy it is to message a teacher and the teachers are able to contact families faster and more efficiently. Just as building partnerships with families to help our students, we can also build relationships with our fellow teachers and social workers. Building this will help us give students better opportunities for growth and give teachers better access to ideas that may help students grow and build through the years in schools.

Students are what make up the school population. I see them as a smaller version of adults. They require a lot of guidance but they are also very inspirational. I have to help my students grow in different areas of themselves. The students in the classroom will develop how to work together. As in the theory of Constructivism, students can build onto prior knowledge as they actively work together. The teacher creates moments where the students will be able to

collaborate in these teachable moments. Teachable moments can occur between teacher and students connecting through a conversation.

In conclusion, as an educator I will be able to make connections with my students and families. Create a positive constructive environment for students and colleagues that will help students grow beyond their academic endeavors and into real life situations. As a christian educator, I can be the salt that helps others around me grow, be a place where they can feel at peace and know the love of God even if his name is not mentioned. His presence will be there. Helping my students learn honesty and integrity as they work in a class environment that promotes these positive values. Creating intentional moments where a student will be able to learn, grow, be creative, problem solve and be better civilians in our society should and will be my objective, ambition and passion.