

Course Reflection

Danielle Bianco-Sheldon

Endeavor STEM Teaching Certificate Project

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I have learned so much by taking this course. I see things in a different light. I realize that there is “inequity by design” in schools, which means that schools are not teaching all students in the same ways. I never thought about how schools provide different instruction to different students. Some students have privileges that others do not. Students are treated differently in schools based on their color, language, ethnicity, or background and not always seen as the capable learners they are. As a teacher, I feel that I need to stop this inequality. I need to have high expectations for all students. I will provide enriching experiences and opportunities to everyone. If students were not previously exposed to some things that other students have been, then it is my job to find ways to teach these students about them. One of my goals is to create a classroom where students see themselves as “knowers.” I want them to share ideas and contribute to classroom discussions. I see myself as a facilitator or guide during these discussions.

Gay (2010) and Ladson-Billings (1995) share the idea that teachers need to help students to be successful. They need to believe in their students and encourage their students to believe in themselves. Teachers need to empower students to be in control of their learning. This is something I truly believe and want to work on more. My hope is that all students succeed and develop a passion for learning.

I also have learned a lot about the importance of allowing student to share their stories and celebrate their cultures. I would like to include more opportunities in my teaching, activities, and projects that allow for this. I hope to have parents come in and talk about their cultures and traditions as well. I would like to provide students with many opportunities to share their cultural

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experiences, traditions, and customs and how they impact their learning. My dream is to encourage a classroom community in which students feel free to share their stories to provide valuable learning opportunities for each other.

I am also going to take a better look at assessments from the multicultural lens. Many of the assessments that my students use are multiple-choice assessments which are not always equitable for all students. I am going to incorporate many different types of assessments that will allow students to show their knowledge of important concepts in more authentic and meaningful ways. “There is a need for assessments that allow students to demonstrate their learning in various ways while also being transparent about the learning that is taking place, help students reflect on their learning experiences, and allow students to actively participate in the learning and assessment process” (Montenegro & Jankowski, 2017).

I want to encourage my students to show respect to everyone. My goal is to create a classroom in which students feel safe and comfortable sharing their ideas. I expect students to respect others who are different than them and to disagree with others in a respectful way. I have learned so much about cultural competence. While taking this course, I have really spent a lot of time thinking about my own cultural background and how it makes me who I truly am. I am really excited to learn more about the cultures and backgrounds of my students and to help them use their cultures to contribute to their learning.

**References**

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