

Goals Statement- Becky Jones

The role of a teacher is a changing landscape with pedagogy moving from instructor to facilitator. No longer is education about the teaching of knowledge and facts, it is about the teaching of skills required for life in the 21st century, transferable skills of questioning, inquiry, reasoning, creativity, analysis and using technology. I aim to develop students who question the world around themselves and have the tools to create research and apply their own answers. Through taking a Masters qualification I hope to develop my approach to teaching and learning, question my own pedagogy and become an even better teacher. As a music teacher I am always striving to make my curriculum relevant and up to date. My lessons include a wide variety of styles of music and every topic is approached through the full range of learning styles. I have created schemes of learning which enable students to compose, perform and critically analyse these styles of music. Through taking the masters of education I would like to further develop technology and its integration in classroom, particularly online learning.

Throughout my career as a teacher I have held various posts of responsibility ranging from training school co-coordinator and the training of the staff body to GTP senior tutor with full responsibility for full-time teacher trainees to my current post, head of department. I am looking to pursue my Masters in Education whilst in post here in Bermuda to further my prospects and understanding in education, particularly with regards to teaching in the USA. In developing my professional qualifications I hope to take further posts of responsibility and would ideally like to become assistant/deputy head teacher. Additionally I would like to return to the instruction of new teachers at some stage in the future and feel that electives within the Leadership concentration will support me in this goal. As a music teacher I use technology in the classroom on a daily basis. I feel strongly that we need to prepare students for the changing world around them, of which technology will no doubt play a instrumental role. We are preparing students for jobs which have not been created and technology which has not yet been invented. With these two goals and interests in mind I have therefore opted to take two concentrations; Technology and Learning, and P-12 School Leadership.

As a teacher here in Bermuda the only way I can pursue my education is via online means. Through careful research I have highlighted Michigan State as one of the most highly regarded universities in teacher training and online instruction. Even if such a course was available on Island I would find scheduled classes difficult to fit in around teaching commitments and as a music teacher, extra-curricular rehearsals. Online learning therefore gives me the opportunity to study within own timescale and schedule. Personally I am very technology literate and relish the idea of online instruction. I love to learn new ideas and am always finding new ways to challenge and extend my knowledge and understanding and regularly use online resources and the breadth of information available for this reason.