

During my time in the MAT program at GSU and my clinical year in an urban school in Atlanta I became an intentional teacher, with the only purpose of giving high quality teaching to my students. As I have shown in my professional development plan I know my strengths and the areas where I need growth and I am going to continue to get support through mentoring and acquire more knowledge through all the professional development opportunities and scientific educational materials I have access to, websites, journals, literature.

I am member of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) and I attended NABT conference on November 2017 in St Louis and NSTA on March 2018 in Atlanta. Those memberships gave me the opportunity to talk to many veteran teachers that were so kind to share many advices and lead me to more sources of knowledge. The sessions that I attended gave me many ideas for my classroom and for my planning and instructional practices. Another benefit of those memberships are the journals that came with it: The Science Teacher and the American Biology Teacher.

During the Fall semester 2017, I took a class on Action Research with Dr. Janice Fournillier that not only taught me how to use GSU's online resources (library) to access journals and scientific literature but also helped me became a conscious teacher and to assess all of my actions. I attached to my portfolio my Action Research that was a project of intent more than a tool that I was able to integrate in my classroom at the time but it gave me great insight and as soon as I had the chance to use action research in my classroom it gave me an understanding that I constantly need to change and adapt even the same lesson in the same day to adapt it to the needs of my students.

Another course that helped me develop professionally was Nature of Science, taught by Dr. Rene Schwartz. This course made me aware of the intentional need to integrate the nature of science in our lessons and to teach our students the empirical, creative, subjective, socio/cultural, tentative aspects of science. Not all that we think as a scientific idea will materialize into a scientific fact or will be the answer to something that was on our mind, but the idea is to think, and question, and to always be scientifically curious.

Teach Georgia Summit was another opportunity to learn about the educational system, to experience the learning process through the eye of students, and to network with teachers from Metro Atlanta area.

Part of the Woodrow Wilson Signatures I have participated in few professional development opportunities: STEAM schools in Metro Atlanta area, Fernbank Science Center, Microgrant Workshops.

I have been chosen by Dr. Natalie King together with other four students to go to a Professional Development at Kennedy Space Center in Florida during the summer of 2018 where together with other pre-service teachers I will learn to integrate in high need schools, lessons created by NASA specialists. Part of this program I attended several webinars that taught me how to use NASA sites created for students and teachers to integrate in classroom.

References

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