

I am seeking a MA in Teaching and Learning specializing in Curriculum Design. I am applying to the master's program for professional development, to provide research based learning opportunities for students, to continue to strengthen in the area of curriculum design and to take part in publishing opportunities.

I began teaching in 2001 at Montgomery Middle School in Linda Vista. While teaching middle school, I taught 6th grade Ancient World History, A.V.I.D., as well as Language Arts. During this time I became G.A.T.E. and A.V.I.D. certified. In my fifth year I taught 8th grade A.V.I.D., U.S. History and English. Through all the varied instruction one thing stayed true; writing instruction doesn't change and strategies that work for younger grades can also work for older grades. In 2005 I became a peer coach at Montgomery where I worked with the 6th and 8th grade teachers to plan curriculum and collaborative project work. One of the most memorable experiences for me was planning a 6th grade Ancient Egypt Museum Night. It was at this point that I realized the level of engagement increases when the tasks are hands-on and nurture multiple intelligences.

In 2006 I decided to teach high school at the San Diego Met Middle College High School located on the Mesa College campus. It is here where I loop with twenty students over the four years of high school where I found my passion for project based instruction. Each year I teach the English and history A-G requirements. In addition, I support my students in finding Tuesday and Thursday internships, guide them through internship projects and confer with both their internship mentor and the student on a monthly basis. In 2010 I graduated my first

group of students whom I successfully guided through the college application process. Through my guidance and direct support a student received the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship. This was a first at our school.

I am at the point in my teaching career where I want to broaden my scope and learn how I can develop curriculum that is research based while at the same time provides opportunity for social justice and creative experiences. In my spare time I write poetry and believe that linking creative writing experiences to academic writing creates a positive learning environment in the traditional English classroom. In 2007 my interest in teaching academic and creative writing brought me to the San Diego Writing Project where I first participated in the Summer Institute; becoming a fellow. Since then I have continued to be an active participant with the writing project. The S.D.A.W.P. inspired me to go back to school to get a master's degree. I have continued to be involved with them by frequenting a study group where we discuss the benefits of using technology in the classroom. I am also part of the S.D.A.W.P. leadership team.

I am seeking a master's degree to continue to strengthen my teaching, by learning how to incorporate creative writing into the classroom curriculum. I am also seeking a master's degree to better understand why I do what I do in the classroom. I am looking forward to being able to articulate why creative writing needs a place in the traditional classroom to superintendants, administrators and peers. I am always seeking new professional development experiences that challenges me to rethink what I do in the classroom but also to help clarify the whys and how's of my teaching practice.