

Statement of Education

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“To learn and to teach, one must have an awareness of leaving something behind while reaching toward something new and this kind of awareness must be linked to imagination. Imagination is the gateway through which meanings derived from experiences find their way into the present; it is “the conscious adjustment of the new way and the old” (Dewey, 1934).

-- Maxine Greene (1995)

I chose the education profession because I believe that an education has a great influence on students’ design and growth in their future lives. Education must involve critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem-solving, and it is a dynamic and continually expanding field of human creation in invention.

The goal of education is to develop the ability of learning at all levels. Education should not only seek knowledge, but also look to cross boundaries between disciplines and find the ways pedagogy, philosophy, psychology, history, sociology, science and other disciplines relate to it. I also believe that all students should have opportunities to learn and become successful learners in education in order to become good problem-solvers in their lives.

I believe that education is an art. It is important for teachers to see the relationship between education and art in order to develop ways to help students enjoy learning and appreciate its beauty. I believe that learning is by doing because students connect their direct experience to the real world, discover new ideas, increase the ability in problem solving, and experience success in learning.

Learning develops imaginations and that imagination opens our eyes to worlds beyond our experience and enables teachers to care for students and envision social reform. I also believe that a teacher should offer students inspiration, compassion, multiple perspectives, multicultural sensitivity, and critical thinking in teaching because “education with inert ideas is not only useless, it is harmful” (Whitehead, 1929).

Caring is one of the most important virtues of a good teacher because caring is about a mutual understanding and reciprocal relation. A caring teacher not only teaches the subject matter but also teaches values, beliefs, and expectations. I also believe that “schools cannot achieve their goals without providing caring and continuity for students” (Noddings, 1992).

I believe mathematics and science education are the most important subject matters, besides English Language Arts, offered to students in school today because, with it, all students can succeed in a challenging and rigorous society. I believe it is an educator’s responsibility to always look for new opportunities to improve students’ achievement in the field of mathematics and science.