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Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship

23 January 2019

Semester Reflection

Assessment 13 - Reflection

Assessment:

The first semester of the Independent Study and Mentorship program was one of many changes and new experiences. Not only was this program new in the sense of professionalism and poise, but also in the sense of finding a topic that truly fit what I wanted to do in the future.

Beginning the year with a focus on veterinary sciences provided an introduction to the world of veterinary sciences. While veterinary sciences had been seen as the obvious career path due to past experience fostering and rescuing with many veterinarians and rescue groups, it eventually became evident that this career path was not the best fit. This change was something very unexpected and resulted in a very different way of thinking due to the experiences presented by the Independent Study and Mentorship program.

While many of the original goals associated with this program changed after switching topics, some stayed the same. Goals relating to improving public speaking skills and overall professionalism remained consistent throughout the year. While public speaking skills have improved since the beginning of the year, there is still room for improvement before final presentation night. Additionally, through experiences provided by the Independent Study and Mentorship program such as interviews, business symposium, research showcase, and more,

being professional has become easier and more natural. Additionally, different aspects of professionalism have been worked on and perfected such as professional dress and a professional handshake. The other goals set at the beginning of the year included finding a mentor and learning more about the topic. These goals have been accomplished however the latter can still be progressed and worked on further as there is always more to learn. A large majority of these goals correspond to the mission statement set for the year as most goals were based upon the overall mission for the year.

A major aspect of the first semester revolved around original work. Working on the original work not only provided a sense of accomplishment but also provided a much greater knowledge of the field as a whole. Knowledge acquired through interviews was used during the entire progression of the original work as a basis and guide for how to put everything together. The connections made through interviews were incredibly valuable and will continue to be valuable resources. Teachers that were interviewed came to research showcase to see how the original work had progressed since the interview. Additionally, as the next semester comes around the mentorship with Ms. Amy Swiney has been incredibly valuable and educational. Observing Ms. Swiney has resulted in a greater increase in knowledge of the field of teaching as a whole and in each specified area of teaching that has to be taken into consideration such as behavioral, social, and educational skills.

Throughout the rest of the year, mentor visits will provide an insight into the elementary education field in many different ways. Visits will be utilized to gain insight into all aspects of kindergarten education and also to see if this is the right profession and grade level. Additionally,

visits will be used to brainstorm ideas over a final product and hopefully a large majority of the final product will be based on experiences in the kindergarten class.