Andrew Steinman

Personal Goal Statement

My professional goal as an educator is to create a learning environment that integrates technology in order to improve my students' educational experiences. I hope to achieve this goal by completing my Master's degree in educational technology through Michigan State University.

As an undergraduate I matured as a learner from freshman to senior year. Going into freshman year, I had a weak work ethic due to my high school experience. In high school I rarely needed to study in order to earn respectable grades. I continued this mindset through my sophomore year in college. It wasn't until the following summer that I realized that my poor grades during sophomore year were a result of my lack of involvement in my own education. After that point, I began reading the textbooks, studying for exams, and taking an active role in my education. As a result, I earned no lower than a 3.0 for the remainder of my undergraduate career. I earned a total GPA of 3.56 and graduated with honors from Michigan State University. My learned work ethic progressed as I entered my professional career in secondary education. I have attended many professional development opportunities and I am currently taking classes through MSU as a life long learner.

As an educator, my goal is to provide a learning environment in which diverse strategies help guide students in their future endeavors. A strategy I am most interested in incorporating into my classroom is educational technology. I desire to provide relevant technological experiences for students that will enhance their academic achievements while preparing them for a technology-rich society. As a professional in the education field, I have witnessed an increase in the amount of technology available for students and teachers. In my career so far, I have seen my school district invest time and budget into the installation of projection systems, as well as SMART boards and interactive classroom clicker technologies. The educational technology graduate degree will prepare me to effectively utilize these, and other technological resources, in my classroom.

I am interested in attaining my Master's through Michigan State University based on its high rank and level of recognition in the United States. The graduate courses offered through the educational technology program are directly aligned to my professional goals. For example, the Adapting Innovative Technologies to Education course highlights instructional principles and methods that I want to effectively utilize in my teaching, such as advanced PowerPoint discussions, blogs and other Web 2.0 technologies. Also, the Teaching K-12 Students Online course will help me integrate Blackboard technology seamlessly into my curriculum. These courses, along with others available through this graduate program, will enhance my instructional abilities while creating opportunities for my students in our technology-rich society. This program encourages hands-on relevant experiences, which allows me to immediately apply what I am learning directly to the content in my classroom. The program also provides me with the opportunity to create finished products that can be easily integrated into the classroom such as Excel activities, online discussion boards and interactive webquests.

Through Michigan State University's educational technology program, I will be able to create the learning environment which technology enhances my instruction and students learning.