

**How did your participation in course activities this month contribute to your understanding of professional learning (generally) and the relationships between learning and leadership?**

Conversations with other students about the professional learning have really helped me iron some of my own thinking in this area. My thinking on professional learning I think had been a little more narrow. As I have read and had small one on one conversations and then the Zoom conversations that actually has widened my view of what professional learning can and should be for our educators. I have also come to realize that leadership can have an even greater impact on the lifelong learning of professional educators. I have thought more introspectively about professional learning not only for myself but for my staff. Specifically, am I a transformational or instruction leader? Or a combination of the two? I think I am a combination of the two but I lean toward transformational and after reading all these articles I am wondering if I lean too much in the transformational direction. To be honest, I am really wrestling with that possibility and look forward to working through that this semester and beyond.

**What preconceptions about professional [learning] have you changed because of your course activities so far?**

I never really understood what professional learning was in high education. My preconception of higher education is that professors are more isolated in their learning. After speaking with and listening to some of the folks in higher education I have learned

that they are in just as much need of professional learning as Preschool through 12th grade educators are in their buildings.

I've always believed that the principal (or campus leader) had an impact on the professional learning of his/her staff but I have learned most recently that the school leader is important in sustaining a lifelong learning culture in the building. The principal is not just in charge of setting up professional development opportunities but should be focused just as much on developing and maintain a school culture of every changing and growing. A culture of how can I be better tomorrow than I am today. Also, my staff should be modeling lifelong learning for my students.

**How have you relied upon networks - with peers, via digital media, via online tools - to advance your learning in our course?**

I rely heavily on peers as well as Twitter to advance my learning. I follow a few hashtags in order to advance my learning and be a better leader for my staff. Hashtags that I follow regularly are: #CultureEd, #eduleadership, #prinleaderchat, #caringclassroom, #personalizedPD, #csi4edu, #mschat and every once in awhile I will follow #edchat but that one is so big it is hard to follow. Having these hashtags up on my TweetDeck allows me to keep track of any possible links to share with my staff or fellow administrators.

**Ask yourself an interest-driven question about professional learning - and provide a meaningful answer.**

I am currently in the middle of conducting interviews for some teaching positions in our middle school. How do I get at the heart of a candidate's desire to be a great teacher that impacts students' learning? What questions can I ask and what responses am I listening for when I ask these types of questions?

Possible questions (works in progress for sure) to ask are below:

- What was the last book you read that related to your professional growth?
- When was the last time you went to an educator conference and what did you take back to your school and apply to your classroom?
- What does the term "lifelong learning" mean to you?
- Do you use any social media to grow professionally?

Responses that I would want to hear would reflect a level of never satisfied and ever improving mindset. I would hope to hear about different professional books the candidate has read. I would hope to hear about hashtags the candidate follows or how he/she is connecting globally in other ways to other educators. My hope is that they would describe lifelong learning as a lifestyle and a responsibility to model for his/her students.

**What are your ongoing curiosities about professional learning, and how might you pursue these interests throughout the remainder of our course?**

I am still totally intrigued by the lifelong learner culture piece. How do I create and sustain a lifelong learning culture in a building full of really good and successful teachers? "Yes, I know you are a good teacher, your students perform well and they love you however, I would like to walk alongside you and see you grow even more. I

want teachers to have this mentality that even great teachers can learn more and be even better.