

Lab: Identifying Instrumental and Missional Thinking

CEP 815: Technology and Leadership

by Maria "Kit" Fishell

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Revised Introductory Statement using Missional Thinking

In an effort to empower educators to become leaders in promoting educational goals of ensuring quality education for every child and closing the achievement gap among the students due to economical, physical, and social differences, teachers are to pursue the opportunities of enriching their teaching pedagogy; and most importantly, providing meaningful learning experiences for all students.

Focusing on the leadership role that teachers should possess can greatly influence the realization of the educational goals. Teachers are the instruments that can make significant differences to learners. It is therefore essential for educators to carry out professional development efforts and activities that produce better-quality teaching and learning. Professional activities may include creating a technology plan that addresses the need of enhancing teaching strategies, course delivery, and student learning. Teachers should take the lead in designing a technology plan that encourages good teaching practices and supports different learning approaches. Technology can become a fundamental tool in delivering quality education and equal learning opportunities to all students.

"Can teachers uphold the educational goals by performing the active role as technology leaders in identifying, evaluating, and implementing appropriate technology that could communicate high expectations from learners, encourage teacher-student interaction, promote active learning, support teamwork and collaboration, provide prompt feedback, and boost respect for diversified learning needs and assessments?"

82% (694 votes) YES. Teachers should play the dynamic role of fostering the educational goals by identifying, evaluating, and implementing appropriate technology that will address students' diversified learning needs and classroom issues.

15% (129 votes) MAYBE. Teachers should play a supporting role of promoting the educational goals by identifying students' learning needs and classroom issues that needed to be addressed, then passing on the information to the administration. The school administrators have the active role in evaluating the provided information to determine what technology tools are necessary in upholding the education goals.

3% (23 votes) NO. Teachers could play a supporting role of promoting the educational goals but should not have any leading role of determining nor evaluating classroom issues and student learning needs. Administrators have the full leadership of identifying, evaluating, and implementing technology tools needed to achieve the educational goal.

Through missional thinking, we diverted the focus to the teacher's role as the leader in fostering the educational goals instead of thinking that technology training is the primary solution to answer teaching, learning, and assessment needs. If educators completely recognize their leadership skill, they become a problem solver in unraveling educational issues to sustain a

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better classroom/school environment. They can determine, evaluate, and implement solutions that address students' diversified learning needs and classroom issues. A rising solution may include the intelligent use of appropriate technology in classrooms.

If teachers are innovative leaders, they remain open to new ideas on technology, pedagogy, assessment, and course content and are always committed to implementing them in the classroom in order to be successful at continuous instructional improvement. The question whether technical training is required for all current teachers becomes no longer an issue, because they always take the initiative of learning and understanding relevant technology that can help carry out the [principles of good practices](#) in developing the learner skills needed for 21st century and beyond. [The skills for 21st century learners](#) are (but not limited to) the following: student engagement, self-advocacy, creativity/innovation, collaboration, and empathy.

The revised survey question and results are driven towards what level of leadership educators should possess in order to achieve the educational goals. Accomplishing the goals involves understanding the attributes that influence teaching and learning. One attribute could be selecting the relevant technology that can support the needs. Teachers should function as the technology leaders to bring about a thoughtful, creative, and innovative solution to the educational demands.

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Wow Kit, this is a very thorough job! Well done. This is an effective revision to the lab assignment. In your rewrite, you demonstrate good differentiation between missional and instrumental thinking. As you have likely noticed, instrumental thinking is pervasive and alluring. It is so common, so readily accepted, it's difficult to identify and root out. Still, our job as educators is to solve learning problems. Should those learning problems require technology, then as MAET/MAED students we'll be well positioned to support such initiatives. This doesn't mean we can't seek out opportunities to use technology to address learning problems, provided we keep the direction of the relationship (from learning problem --- > technology) in clear view.

Great work, Kit. Grade: 6/6

Nick