

Leadership and Professional Development

Although not a formal course, demonstration of leadership and professional development are necessary ingredients for continual improvement to occur. Membership in professional organizations, participation in listservs, and responsibility for leadership roles provide examples of how I am continuing to use and share what I have learned as well as stay current with developing trends in instructional technology.

I am currently a member of the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) and have attended many of their annual educational conferences. TCEA provides a newsletter and professional development opportunities throughout the year. I am also a member of the Texas Distance Learning Association (TxDLA), the Texas Industrial and Vocational Association (TIVA), and the Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA). TxDLA helps keep me informed about issues relating specifically to distance learning. TIVA keeps me updated on Career and Technology topics such as Certiport certifications for students. TCTA informs me of any legal issues or concerns involving teachers.

While professional memberships help keep me updated on the latest technological trends and issues, professional listservs provide a chance to interact and learn from other professionals. I am currently subscribed to the Instructional Technology Forum (ITForum) listserv¹, the Distance Education Online Symposium (DEOS-L), and several Texas Education Agency listservs, including one for Career and Technology Education (CTE). The opportunity to make critical inquiries of other professionals as well as share opinions and experiences helps me refine my knowledge as I continue to learn.

As I continue to develop on a professional level, I find myself taking on more leadership roles on my campus as well as in my district. At my high school campus, I represent thirteen CTE teachers on the Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) team that serves as an advisory committee to the campus administration. As a Microsoft Office Master Certified Specialist, I am the Certiport Testing Coordinator for all of the Wichita Falls Independent School District's high schools. I was selected to be a part of the WFISD Leadership Cohort as a leader on my campus and I am a Technology Trainer for WFISD Staff Development seminars.

Professional development and leadership require time and involvement with people and various forms of media. Graduation from a master's degree program does not mean the learning is complete. Attention to others and what they have to say through professional memberships, listservs, and leadership positions remains of utmost importance if I am to continue to develop as a professional.

¹ A sample post can be read at <http://lyndacannedyutb.pbworks.com/f/Burning+Topics.pdf>