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Disposition Self Reflection

Upon reflecting on my Self Report for Professional Disposition Indicators I could single out a few areas where I believe I have a strength in, along with a few I may have more opportunity to improve. When first filling out this document, it was easy to rate everything highly, as I was excited to be entering this program. But, after a chance to take another look it was a great practice on where I need to focus on this time of going back to school and learning.

My areas I thought I had a strength in were "values all knowledge," "values differing opinions," "responds well to authority." I picked these three because they all show how I've grown since my early education years. I've always respected others, and I enjoy hearing others points of view. Along with this, I've grown to really enjoy learning new things whether it is just from reading a book, or a topic for a project I'm working on. This last one is a departure from how I was when I was younger. I was not always a great student, but once I became more interested in reading, that lead to more interest in learning and it has continued to today where I want to soak up and learn anything I can.

I have always done with respecting authority. I believe it is a reflection on how I was raised, that even if I disagreed with someone or something, it is important to still respect that person. I can take instruction well and apply that with valuing differing opinions. To me, this is a necessity to form your own opinions and beliefs. What are the people around you thinking, how does that relate to what you're thinking, and are you able to form a new way of thinking from both?

The few areas I have as an opportunity to grow would be completing assigned tasks in a timely manner, taking initiative to facilitate personal and professional growth and responding well to suggestions and criticisms. The response to criticisms almost seemed contradictory to me when paired against valuing differing opinions, but it got me to think more about both statements. Although I believe

I do well listening to others opinions, I do believe I have a more difficult time when someone is giving me suggestions or criticism on a piece of work I have completed. My first instinct to respond is to explain, but rather I should just listen and then implement a new or modified way the next time. Much like how I would about be taking someone else's opinion.

Completing tasks in a timely manner is another area I can improve a lot in. I tend to put things off and then complete them at the last minute. Although I have had quite a bit of success doing some things this way, I know it is not the most productive and will not lead to me be an organized and professional educator. To improve in this, I need to align my desire to be a great teacher with how I prepare to become that great teacher.

Lastly there's taking the initiative to facilitate personal/professional growth. I can have a habit of not knowing or thinking I need top devote what time I must reading books and articles on what profession I am in. This ties in with just learning to organize and time manage better. I know once I start teaching I'll be busy with the work that requires, but with good time management there will still be opportunity to read up on contemporary teaching methods and that is something that I must do.

Overall on the entire disposition I would put most objects at a 3 or 4, but the area of opportunity I put in this reflection may be a solid 3 after I put more work and effort in to making them more of a daily part of my life. One thing I learned from one of my swim coaches was, "the quickest way to improve is to improve your greatest weaknesses." That's something that has stuck with me and can apply for the rest of my career as an educator.