

Professional Growth Plan

Susan Van Alstyne

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Dr. Zieger

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As an educational technology leader, my main goal is to facilitate access, implementation and effective use of technology to support the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of students. My educational philosophy involves the belief that people have their own motivations, and there is a correlation between motivation and learning. It is my responsibility as an educator to stress the importance of creativity to be independent, critical thinkers and instilling an entrepreneurial spirit with each student.

Unequivocally, working with students is the highlight of my career as a librarian. I enjoy every question and giving students individual attention in the library. Students visit the library for help with a variety of technical questions in addition to research questions, and everything else in between—I enjoy the ambiguity. Another part of my role is in-class library instruction. The instruction sessions are one-time visits to the class to introduce library sources and services. The students I work with have different levels of experience using technology, access to technology as well as their overall academic skill level. I have also learned so much from the students over the years.

After 10 years as an academic library director, I have trained many staff members, and I enjoy developing people. The library is the first place of employment for some federal work-study students. One of my former work-study students went on to have a successful career at our school, and she is now pursuing an advanced degree.

I have developed my leadership skills over the years and from the readings (Northouse, 2013), my style aligns with transformational and authentic leadership. I scored very high on the Authentic Leadership Self-Assessment Questionnaire (Northouse, p.236). My leadership style reflects the authentic leadership model. I am self-aware and readily admit my mistakes, and my actions “reflect my core values.” Initially, I related to transformational leadership only because

of the nurturing traits but transformational leaders have more influence than I have in my present situation. I would like to develop influence.

Although I have knowledge in library databases and specialty software, I would like to develop my technical knowledge in robotics, website design, and other technology. I would also like to begin blogging or sharing my expertise with others and learning from others with different opinions and new ideas. In the long term, I also have an entrepreneurial spirit and I have always enjoyed learning about new businesses and new products.

The PGP is a working document and below are my goals during the first year of the program.

Fall 2017

- Seek mentors and leaders in the field
- Actively pursue opportunities to publish and present at conferences
- Start a blog and establish a media presence in the field
- Learn a new technology and attend a conference about technology at K-12 schools

Spring 2018

- Master a new technology- website design and or robotics
- Volunteer to serve on a new committee

Summer 2018

- Publish an article
- Focus research areas—I have many areas of interest:
 - I have an interest in how technology has transformed library spaces. Other research interests include design thinking, data literacy, visual literacy, health information technology, and the relationship between creativity and technology.

References

Northouse, P. G. (2013). *Leadership: Theory and practice*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.