Personal Goal Statement Neil Ryan Syrek May 15, 2008

As my teaching career progresses, I am constantly seeking new ways to enhance and strengthen my skills as an educator. Since technology offers innovative, exciting, and versatile educational opportunities, my goal is to further my growth in the knowledge and application of educational technology.

In my undergraduate studies at Michigan State University, I learned a great deal of content in my core classes. Likewise, in my teacher education classes, I began to master the art of teaching. Both of these have done a great deal to make me the effective educator I am today. It was not until I began my graduate studies, however, that I discovered a new passion. As I implemented the skills and applications I learned in the Educational Technology Certificate Program, my teaching was transformed. I have learned that when educational technology is used to promote collaboration among students, to generate ideas, and to foster lifelong learning habits, it is an exceptionally powerful tool.

The aspects of educational technology I have mastered thus far have made my teaching more effective. I know that to maintain my proficiency, however, I must continue to learn and progress. Obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Educational Technology will assure that I am successful in this endeavor. The program will allow me to develop tools and resources, and discover theories and philosophies of learning that will make me an expert in my field. My achievement will then translate into an enhanced learning experience for the students I teach.

Becoming an educator was one of my ultimate goals in life. Even though I have accomplished this, and have been recognized by colleagues and administrators as a model of excellence in my field, I know that I cannot fail to be dynamic in my teaching practices. I must always endeavor to become a better, more effective teacher. This can only be done by furthering my experience in the field of educational technology.

Since I began teaching, I have strived for excellence in myself to maximize the potential of my students. It is critical that I maintain that excellence by obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Educational Technology.