

## MA in CTE Portfolio

ECT 6948 - Practicum in CTE – Summer 2013

### Section IV. Impact of Program Participation

#### Impact of Participation

This reflection is a personal analysis of the "whole" program of study, practicum, and professional experiences at the University of South Florida. This document will describe ways in which the program, practicum, and professional experiences helped to further understand and/or enhance contributions to professional practice in Career and Technical Education.

#### **Professional Base of Understandings**

I believe due to continuous advancements in technology, Career and Technical Education will continue to face a challenge of training students for jobs which do not even exist. Upon entering the program, I had developed a strong passion for career and technical education which was specific to the content area of technology education. My teaching was focused around what was currently working for other teachers in the district and national practices which have been employed for years. A more firm understanding of the deep rooted history of CTE has furthered my enthusiasm in the classroom which I teach. In the course of this program I have gained a better understanding of the importance of teaching concepts which are developed from current research and data collection rather than using teaching methods which have been outdated or just focusing in areas which I know best. Upon completing the program at USF, I have acquired a broad knowledge base which encompasses the purpose and function of Career and Technical Education as a whole enabling me to become a better educator and preparing for a successful path in administration.

#### **Professional Practice**

Direct application of learning into the classroom from this program has augmented the depth of my teaching and success of students while preparing me with the proficiencies to become a successful administrator. In the last two years the engineering and technology program which I teach, has departed from an excellent program to a high-quality education experience for students appropriated to application of knowledge, and a focus of teaching through higher level content and research. The background knowledge obtained in relation to CTE has helped me become a stronger advocate within my participation in career and technical student organizations and professional teacher organizations.

#### **Practicum Work**

The practicum project produced an evaluation of the middle school of the inaugural year of the middle school academy, focus of careers readiness and what is needed for future improvement. Through this document a better understanding of the importance of data collection was achieved, and a clear understanding of missing links which need to be implanted to improve the education experience within the program and the community. Although CTE falls into an elective category for students, projects such as this are desirable to ensure all students have the opportunity to receive the educational experience they need to prepare them for the future workforce.