

Philosophy of Education

My calling is to help learning communities experience creative outcomes so that we can learn from one another and about one another. In recognizing the diversity among my students, it is especially important to appreciate students' interests and backgrounds. Toward this goal, a range of contemporary research guides my teaching practice. I have evaluated formal and informal teaching processes, establishing values to which I have bound my own teaching philosophy. Something I have learned from my current research is that modern education does not simply happen inside a classroom—it permeates society in its entirety. Therefore, my role as an educator is specific to helping others balance analytical thinking with the ever-present creative mind. Overall, a guiding principle that I aspire to is “think big, get the whole picture” and “act locally, every little change is important.”

I teach in real-life conditions that take students beyond the classroom, including applications that may be global or universal in their potential. In working with students, parents, teaching peers, and administrators, I demonstrate high standards of enthusiasm for teaching and learning. Throughout my career, I have made positive contributions to the schools in which I have served. I first started teaching when I was an undergraduate at Virginia Commonwealth University by giving piano lessons at the community music school. Through that experience, I came to understand the significance of developing one-on-one relationships with students who had specific goals. The lessons I learned there in terms of the teacher-student relationship and its impact on student achievement continue to resonate in my teaching practice.

Effective teaching involves storytelling. As a culture, we cherish our stories, learn from them, and create new ones. Tradition, reason and experience guide the search for creating and sharing our narratives. Working with storylines builds pathways to literacy, creativity, teamwork and self-discovery. Sharing our stories promotes public support for the learning constituency and larger community. Through the narrative of arts and culture, I endeavor to make positive, professional contributions, and impart a sense of community to my students, teaching peers, and administration.