From Enthusiast to Something More

Coming into the MAET (Masters of Arts in Educational Technology) I had several goals all of which the masters program through Michigan State University would address. First of all, I hoped to expand my skills to become more of a resource to my colleagues and employer. I was already assisting teachers throughout my building with technology applications. I hoped to gain a broader range of skills that I could apply to pedagogy. Rather than just assisting with IT (internet technology) I hoped to help create a culture of technology integration that will support 21st Century skills. Secondly, I wanted to expand my use of technology in my own classrooms. While I have always been an enthusiastic early adopter and explorer of technology, I don't always have time to integrate technology. There are so many things and ideas that look fun and effective, but as a busy teacher I didn't have time to explore them. I hoped that the MAET would force me to take time to learn and broaden my horizons, technologically. Finally, I wanted to gain qualification to teach and train in a wider range of areas. Adding an endorsement was only one aspect of that goal. I also wanted to put a credential with the knowledge base that I had already gained through my own independent study and play with technology. The idea behind that was that it would allow me more influence with administrators and give me more options moving forward in my career.

Over the course of the MAET program I gone through a number of stages in my goals. I have gone from enthusiastic about the possibilities to overwhelmed with the load that I put upon myself to thankful this is almost over and back to enthusiastic about

the possibilities that the program is presenting to me. My first goal of becoming a greater resource to my colleagues has been a natural byproduct of this process. So while that is still something that is important to me it is not my primary focus going forward. I see it as coming with the territory I suppose. Secondly, I wanted to expand my use of technology in my own classroom. While this is still important to me it is no longer my primary goal either. Finally, I hoped to gain the credentials to gain credibility as a technologist. I appreciate the program has done that for me. Already I have had more opportunities to lead on technology related initiatives because of my limited level of expertise. Again I don't see this as my primary goal going forward either. Going forward I hope to help teachers and administrators find the sweet spot between technology, pedagogy, and content knowledge that Professor Koehler and Professor Mishra so eloquently coined TPACK. I have realized that the MAET program is not just about learning jazzy new hardware or software. It is about creating learning experiences no matter the means. So my goals going forward center around that intersection. Yes I still hope to be a success in all those other areas, but I feel like this new emphasis puts them into perspective.