

With Every End, Comes a New Beginning

By: Ariel Myers

As the end of Michigan State's MAET program is near, I am able to reflect back on my hard work, progress and accomplishments that have taken place over the last year. Beginning this journey, I had just finished my undergraduate degree in Education with an Instructional Technology Specialist Certificate. The instructional technology program at Duquesne University is what developed my passion for learning more about the integration of technology within school curricula.

It was in the early Spring of 2012, when I applied to MSU in hopes of expanding my knowledge and achieving my goals. While I had many aspirations for my future, I focused on three major goals: Learn new technologies, learn how to use technology effectively and become a technology leader. Through the MAET program, I've reached these goals, gained confidence in myself and was able to apply what I've learned in a real world setting.

As a Technology Coordinator, I have been able to help integrate technology successfully within my schools. I recently deployed 500+ iPads within my schools and have been able to conduct teacher trainings using effect resources. I have grown as both an Educational Technologist and as Technology Leader. A majority of this growth has taken place thanks to TPACK(Technology, Pedagogy & Content Knowledge). The connection of these three variables creates an effective learning experience for anyone using technology. I believe that the TPACK theory is something that all technology leaders should live by.

Even though I feel I've accomplished my long-term goals over the last year, this is not the end of my growth as an Educational Technologist. With every end comes a new beginning, and I do believe this is a continuous learning process. The MAET program at MSU taught me that staying updated and knowledgeable is one of the most important things. With that being said, I am sure that in my future I will have new goals and continue to learn new things. Knowledge is power and I intend to conquer all with it.