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TEACHING STATEMENT

One of the many roles of an academic institution is to create an environment which is conducive to learning for all of its students. My teaching philosophy is to 1) foster an open dialogue between students and the teacher, 2) integrate real-world examples of abstract concepts, 3) incorporate current research into classroom instruction, and 4) provide a realistic simulation of the business environment for professional development. As a result, my students and I co-create a meaningful educational environment that is rewarding to both and effective for knowledge creation and transfer. In recognition of this approach, I have received evaluations ranging from very good to excellent and was nominated to receive a college teaching award twice.

My teaching philosophy is guided by several beliefs. First, I believe that teaching requires the ability to create a unique experience every semester for students. In today's digital world, students learn from a variety of resources and are seeking educational environments that customize to their needs and interests. The challenge to teachers is the need to convey core principles related to the specific course in new ways that are individually relevant to students. My approach to teaching in this environment is to survey students for organizations that interest them and then utilize these organizations as real world examples based on the core principles of the class. By doing so, students remain interested in the course and are able to internalize these concepts more easily through organizations that they have selected.

Second, I believe that the role of a teacher is to facilitate the educational experience of students. Consequently, my role as a teacher is to provide the relevant information to students and when needed act as a guide to help students understand how the information can be used in organizational environments. This requires the teacher to construct a classroom environment that fosters discussion and information seeking behavior. Additionally, a teacher must continuously assess student performance in order to ensure that the educational experience is producing the correct effects. To accomplish this goal, I utilize a variety of assessment methods to ensure students are achieving their maximum level of performance.

Third, a large role of education is to provide an environment for students to safely test their ideas and the knowledge they have learned from my class as well as other classes. My responsibility as an educator is to ensure that students understand the importance of practice and the safety of a classroom environment in terms of the consequences for failure. In a classroom environment, mistakes can be made and as long as students learn from these mistakes and take appropriate steps to correct these faults, they can succeed.

Lastly, I believe that the greatest source of advice for course improvement lies within the students. Each semester, I ask my students to provide feedback and advice on how to improve the current course as well as the course in the future. From this feedback, I have already implemented more real-world examples, class demonstrations, and alternative sources of knowledge that students find refreshing and applicable to their academic pursuits.