

## **Teaching Philosophy**

**Daniel Marich, August 17, 2023**

My teaching philosophy is an organic amalgamation of my life experiences of who I am and what I have learned applied across three factors: education, innovation, and inspiration. As a non-traditional lifelong learner who returned to higher education after years as a full-time father and part-time Web developer, I have a rejuvenated love for the mission surrounding pedagogy and its importance in society. My academic path started in Chicago, continued through my time growing up in Hawaii, and most recently in Southern California. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and communications from the University of Hawaii, returned to school after years in IT management/Web development to get my computer programming Associate of Science from Moreno Valley College, and most recently graduated with an MBA at the top of my class from California State University, San Bernardino with a concentration in cyber security and supply chain management. I bring a multicultural perspective, a thirst for knowledge, and a dedication to nurturing meaningful relationships to my teaching. These experiences uniquely position me to effectively engage college-level students from all walks of life.

### **Education**

A college professor should provide the right balance of rigor that sparks the satisfaction of achievement without discouraging the student's growth through assessments, projects, and class participation. I find that embracing traditional educational schools of thought such as Bloom's taxonomy and Webb's Depth of Knowledge give the educator tools and strategies to foster student learning, yet I believe they should be balanced with the interpersonal communication skills to connect with the students. In my recent experience as a graduate student and graduate assistant at CSUSB, I found myself excited by students who embraced the knowledge base and reflected their passion in their work. Meanwhile, I also found myself often considering other possible educational approaches that professors might use to encourage students who seemed to be "going through the motions" to embrace the knowledge base to successfully further their overall educational experience. As a college professor, I would be determined to find the right mix of educational techniques that will encourage my students to embrace the process of learning as an essential part of reaching their potential and their personal goals. This involves recognizing the group dynamics that make up the class's enrollment and using those dynamics as a strength to achieve its and the student's objectives.

### **Innovation**

The college environment is going through a transformation as technology impacts the student's learning experiences. Although there is a warranted push to limit how the Internet and now generative artificial intelligence impacts a student's homework and assignments, my philosophy is to embrace technological innovations while nurturing and rewarding my student's original thought and creativity. A specific concept I have developed as a recent graduate student regarding generative AI is to treat it as my 'super smart friend.' Students should be encouraged to seek out the thoughts and knowledge of friends, family, and mentors, but then the student should do the due diligence to research and analyze facts and opinions to make their own determination of what their assessments are and come to their own conclusions. An essential part of this philosophy is developing a participatory learning environment where a student feels comfortable taking a risk, saying what is on their mind, and learning from a variety of points of view. As I lifelong learner, I will continuously look for technological innovations that can bring bridge the gap between the curriculum, the student, and the future promise of tomorrow.

## **Inspiration**

My teaching philosophy is rooted in the belief that every student has the potential to reach their goals in life, and it is my role to inspire them individually to see that possibility through self-discovery and academic achievement. I would foster an environment where my students with different learning styles and backgrounds would be encouraged to explore the subject matter at a deeper level than required by the curriculum and share their discoveries with their classmates. I am committed to tailoring an educational experience that goes beyond the requirements of the class through open dialogue, active participation, and extra credit work. I would encourage students to overcome setbacks as opportunities for growth, and I would share the experience of people from different backgrounds who overcame their own challenges to reach their personal goals. Through an environment of mutual respect, collaboration, and inspiration, I would present the course curriculum as an important element in a student's path to achieving excellence in life and being a meaningful contributor to their community.

## **Conclusion**

My teaching philosophy reflects a culmination of diverse educational, employment, and multicultural life experiences, and I focus my perspectives on education, innovation, and inspiration. As a non-traditional, lifelong learner, I bring a unique and profound appreciation for the transformative power of education which guides my commitment to the pedagogical mission. By nurturing a culture of self-discovery, resilience, and continuous growth, I would embrace a curriculum that empowers students to achieve their full potential while contributing meaningfully to their personal and collective success. A mix of traditional methodologies, innovative strategies, and understanding the dynamics of a classroom, I believe to be essential to effective teaching. While embracing technology and collaborative learning within an environment that rewards original thought, I would prepare my students not only for the challenges of today but also for the opportunities of tomorrow. It is my hope to inspire my students to transcend any perceived limitations, strive for excellence beyond the classroom, and to recognize the profound impact they can make in their own lives and in the broader global community.