

Now that I have come to the end of my degree journey, I have been asked what my next goals are. This took a long time to process because, I don't have goals. I just want to teach. I have always been a teacher to others: helping friends with homework, being a leader in Boy Scouts, working with elementary students during high school, and coaching swimming. As I have elaborated on above, I went on this journey so that I could better express the philosophies I have as a teacher. Now that I have reached the conclusion, it is back to the classroom. But my teaching does not have to be limited by the four walls of my room. After refocusing myself on my classroom, I can turn to support other teachers and work to create a better educational system from the ground up.

### **Improving my Practice**

My primary focus at all times is being the best teacher I can be for my students. This is especially true at this moment since I am working in a new school and teaching a content area I have not spent much time with before. Now that my master's program is at a close, I am going to be taking a lot of time to realign what I am doing in the classroom to what I learned through the course of study. I got this degree so that I could be better at helping students, and that is what I plan on doing.

### **Leading By Example**

It is important to me to focus on improving my practice first, because I have always found the best way to lead is by example. The best way to bring about change in others' classrooms is to show them how in your own. If I continue to make my classroom a place of excellence in learning, other teachers and administrators will come to me for advice on improving their practice. I have already begun sharing curriculum ideas with coworkers. This past week, I assisted in designing a learning capstone project for our school. These types of projects are welcome challenges that I enjoy that allow me to teach more students by extension. This website will continue the work of displaying what I am working on so I continue to build my professional presence. I hope the work I display in the "About Our Class" blog opens doors for educators and my students alike.

### **Reaching Outside the School**

Once I can get to a place where I am comfortable helping other teachers within my school, I want to get to a point where I can help teachers in other schools. I have already mentored student teachers with the University of Hawaii West Oahu College

of Education. During numerous courses, and featured in my portfolio, are designs to create a professional development for teachers new to teaching Hawaiian History. Although I do not have the resources to offer this course currently, I want to continue to grow my professional network. I can help more students by helping teachers. It will take quite a while for me to implement these goals, and for the first time in my life, I am able to appreciate the time it will take. Although I have this degree, I will never truly be a master of my craft. It will always evolve and change to adapt to my students' needs.

In short, now that I have this degree, it is time to teach.