Tracy Richter

Reflection 4.3

**4.3 Leadership**

Candidates are able to articulate the role and relationship of the school library program's impact on student academic achievement within the context of current educational initiatives. Utilizing evidence-based practice and information from education and library research, candidates communicate ways in which the library program can enhance school improvement efforts.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 541 Web 2.0 Research](../../Summer%202013/ISTC%20541/tracyr_ResearchPaper.docx) & [ISTC 789 LiveBinder Professional Development](../Internships/Westowne%20Elementary/Tech_PD_LiveBinders.docx)

2. [ISTC 702 Leadership Slide](../../Summer%202013/ISTC%20702/Leadership%20slide.pptx)

3. [ISTC 601 School Improvement Plan](file:///E:\ISTC601_SIP.docx)

**Relevance**

A media specialist is a leader in any school community. They have the opportunity to show leadership in technology, information, literature, and more. In my future, I will not take this responsibility lightly, and will take charge in my school in order to continuously improve and enhance school community.

In my ISTC 541 coursework, I was able to conduct research on web 2.0 tools. I discovered that web 2.0 tools can enhance and improve students’ academic achievement, motivation, and organization, if these tools are used effectively in the classroom. I found that teachers are aware of these benefits, however many of them do not implement them in their classrooms, or improperly integrate them, resulting in negative results from students. One of the main solutions to this problem is to give teachers professional development opportunities to learn about these tools and how they should integrate them effectively in their classrooms. I took this research into consideration when I was in my elementary school placement, and lead a professional development session for teachers on the web 2.0 tool, LiveBinders. My artifact, gave teachers a brief introduction of the tool, its strengths and weaknesses, and ideas about how they could use it in their classroom. Then I was able to help them one-on-one with creating their own LiveBinders and answer any questions they had about using the tool or integrating it in the class with their students. This is one way that I will show leadership in my future school, by staying current on technology and providing teachers with professional development about how to use these web 2.0 tools in their classrooms. Being a leader with technology in a school, is one of the many reasons why school library media specialists are invaluable.

Determining what kind of a leader you are, what you are most passionate about in a school, and how you will accomplish goals, will help anyone be successful leader in a school community. In my coursework, we spent some time exploring the kind of leaders we are and how we would play a major role in the school as a media specialist. My artifact is a slide that we created, displaying a visual of our leadership role as we see it, followed by a description of what our plans are as leaders in our future school. My visual and my explanation, displays how I want to take the lead in connecting the entire school community (e.g. teachers, students, parents, etc.) together, in order for everyone to achieve success and have their knowledge grow exponentially. I want everyone to be connected through literacy and technology, and work together collaboratively to fulfill their goals. In my future school I will strive to do this through working collaboratively with teachers, attending team and faculty meetings, providing professional development, expanding my own professional development, promoting library services and resources, and more. It is so important for a media specialist to be a leader in a school, and after identifying the kind of leader I am, and the goals that I will strive to accomplish, I too, will be a leader in my future school community.

In my ISTC 601 coursework, my classmates and I had to examine a school’s improvement plan, and add how a media specialist should play a role in it. Since I am not in a school, I teamed up with other classmates that worked at a school, and we added to their school’s plan. First of all, a school improvement team is a huge part of the school community, and a school library media specialist should *always* be a part of that team, since they are a leader in the school. Therefore, for each strategy to improve the school, we added a media specialist to the list because they can take the lead in any strategy to improve the school. Even in areas like math, we included a media specialist as a leader to enhance school efforts by monitoring students’ math technology use and assisting them with strategies to improve their performance, as well as providing math teachers with technology opportunities in their instruction, and providing professional development. There are so many aspects of the school community that a media specialist can take the lead in, and being involved in the school improvement team can greatly support their role. I plan on joining this team, in my future school, to stay current on improvement efforts, as well as promote my services resources to the other members in the school community. I want to help my future school succeed, and by being involved in this team, I will surely be able to become a leader in my school and help them achieve success.