

## Personal Goal Statement

Patrick Springer

For the past six years, I have searched for the best practices for teaching high school science while making the most of the technology available to the district. My goals are to continue to find ways to integrate technology to increase student achievement.

I am applying for graduate school admission to work towards a Master of Arts in Educational Technology. I completed the Educational Certificate program in the summer of 2008. I wish to continue in this program of study because technology will continue to have profound, long-lasting impacts on education. Since finishing my education coursework through Madonna University in 2004 with a grade point average of 3.48, I have been teaching high school biology, physical science, physics, and environmental science. I, as well as my students, enjoy using various forms of technology in the classroom. My interests lie in developing lessons that utilize cutting edge technology, while still falling in the realms of the district's technology policies that are in place to maintain a secure network.

One doesn't have to delve too deeply into educational history to discover how technology has changed the face of education. In order to be an effective teacher to future generations, I strongly believe that I will need not only the knowledge of how to use the latest technology, but also the teaching strategies to make those technologies effective and meaningful for each student. After having taught a wide range of educational abilities in the last six years, I have recognized a pattern with various groups of students. Many of the students who claim they are not "book smart" show significant signs of learning and progress when different forms of technology are utilized in instruction.

Educational technology is the way of the future. In a culture of technology that is ever changing, it is my responsibility as an educator to be able to meet the demands of technology's role in education. Today's students thrive when working with different forms of technology in the educational setting. Their motivation to learn is heightened. It is something that they understand and want to be a part of. This is why I believe that a Master of Arts in Educational Technology will further enhance my ability to have a positive impact on student learning.

Having taken CEP 810 Teaching for Understanding with Computers, CEP 811 Adapting Innovative Technologies to Education, and CEP 812 Applying Educational Technology to Problems of Practice, I am confident that the MAET is the right choice for me. The knowledge gained from this program will be utilized each day in the classroom to strengthen student achievement.