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EDUC 340

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6 April 2005

Why I value my Liberal Arts Education

A liberal arts education is valuable for all students to receive not just education students. I am glad that I chose Manchester College and am receiving a liberal arts education. It has exposed me to many different cultures that I would have not been exposed to otherwise. I feel that it has also prepared me to teach the many different subject areas that I might be called on to teach in an elementary classroom. I feel that my experiences at Manchester College have helped prepare me for the “real world” that lies ahead after graduation.

Manchester College has exposed me to many different cultures, lifestyles, and religions. I have always been accepting of these differences but since being at Manchester I have met and learned more about people that are different than myself. I was exposed to the Native Polynesian culture when I took intercultural theatre in Hawaii. I met some interesting people as well as getting to know the people that went on the trip with me. I had a wonderful time talking to some native Fijians and learning about the history of Fiji from their perspective versus what I had learned from textbooks. I have learned to value the aspects of different cultures and what they bring to my life. I will include these differences in my classroom and also show the similarities between the cultures.

I valued the art classes that I had to take especially the hands on ones. I loved learning how to do “kid friendly” art and I enjoyed learning about the history of the different styles of art that we experimented with. I feel comfortable that if in the future I am called to teach art to my

students that I will be able to do so affectively. By receiving a minor in history I feel that I have learned how to teach that subject with more “authority” than any of the other subject areas that I have been taught. I am getting more comfortable with the idea of teaching Language Arts since I now know that it is possible to tie in my favorite subject, history.

Manchester College has prepared me to work in the “real world” by the many different people on campus. I have been asked to work with people different than myself and people that had different opinions than myself. Honestly, I have not always enjoyed these experiences but I have improved my cooperation skills. This will be beneficial in the future when I am working with colleagues that I have disagreements with for various reasons. I have also had experiences working with students that are disrespectful, while working with Partners In Learning at the Junior High, I have asked them to respect me while I show them respect as well. Working with the Junior High Students has been beneficial to me as well as them as they are getting the help they need with their homework. I am grateful for the experiences that I have had in the classrooms in the surrounding area. I have also had experience working with preschool aged students as well as those that are elementary aged.

I feel confident that when I go to interview for a teaching job that my experiences as well as my liberal arts education will serve in my favor. The liberal arts education I have received at Manchester College has prepared me to work with and collaborate with many different types of people in many different types of situations. I know there are many things I have yet to learn but I do believe that Manchester College has provided a firm foundation for my future.