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Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes...

My life, as well as our world, has changed drastically since I began this Master's program journey in January of 2020. I was halfway through my very first teaching job, after moving across the country to Denver, CO. Although being a new teacher made me feel very overwhelmed, I still wanted to be the best I could be for my students. That's what they deserved. I applied to this program wanting to be *that* teacher who knew how to use pieces of technology in a meaningful and engaging way and who also could prepare her students for our 21st century world. What I didn't realize was how much my life, and our world, would change since being accepted.

My first course proved to be a challenge as I was getting used to the program, relearning what APA formatting meant, while also transitioning to remote learning because of the pandemic beginning. Yet, my goals still stayed the same. When I began a course about leadership, and practiced performing tasks that a district technology coordinator would do, I started thinking about my life outside of the classroom. I thought this degree would be a good backup, in case I ever wanted to leave classroom teaching. This just ended up happening earlier than I anticipated.

When I couldn't last any longer in the classroom, I made a major career change. I quit the career I'd dreamt of since I was in first grade. As I began a new semester, I was asked about my goals for my program but I knew I had to change them up because I did not want to be in the classroom anymore. However, I did know that I still loved the whole process of instruction, supporting learners, and building relationships. So I decided to revise my program goals to meet a broader audience, rather than elementary-aged students. My new goals consist of having the skills necessary to use, and having the confidence using pieces of technology to enhance instruction for stakeholders and clients. I also took a lot away from my leadership class during this program that I feel confident I could effectively lead a team and/or project successfully and in a supportive way.

Although my career has changed quite a bit since beginning this program, a theme that stayed current was wanting to provide my "people", whether they are 10 year olds or 50 year olds, with high quality instruction and support. In my current position, I will be providing instruction and support to professors who use the Wall Street Journal in their classrooms. My goals now consist of providing high quality instruction and support, using technology in intentional, ethical, and innovative ways as well as create new tools and processes to make tasks and projects easier to manage. The courses in this Master's program have helped me meet my goals, even considering the major career changes.