**Reflection Journal**

**EDLS 695: Principal Internship**

**‍‍Date: Sunday, April 8, 2012**

**‍‍Journal Entry # 5 Debbie Womack**

**‍‍Issue addressed (e.g. Student Discipline):**

**Standard I: Principals Demonstrate Strategic Leadership**

**b. School Improvement Plan:** Principals ensure that the unified improvement plan provides the structure for the vision, values, goals, and changes necessary for improved achievement and developmental outcomes for all students, and provides for

tracking of progress based on data.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **‍‍Instructions: Please take time to reflect on your learning during the week or collectively over the course. The two-sided reflection template provides you the prompts for this introspection. Save this electronically and submit in accordance with the guidelines provided by your facilitator.** | |
| **What did I learn/observe:**  This week, in preparation for the upcoming professional development day, the principal and I discussed the recent e-mail that she sent instructing us to review the school’s UIP and demonstrate how we were using it to guide our instruction. During our conversation, I asked how she monitored a teacher’s actual use and application in using the UIP to guide instruction. She stated that she looks at the plans submitted each week and during her walk-throughs she looks at the objectives posted and looks for key elements communicated during the lesson. She said that by knowing the UIP, she is able to assess if the stated targets are being addressed during the lesson. She made it sound so straightforward, but somehow, I think that this is a skill that is gained though experience as an instructional leader. I was a little overwhelmed and intimidated by the whole process. Just the sheer magnitude of keeping all of that data in the forefront of my mind is daunting.  I appreciated my principal encouraging teachers to review the UIP and demonstrate how we were incorporating the UIP to guide instruction. | **How This Will Impact My Leadership Practice:**  I will most definitely include teacher leaders in working together on the school’s UIP and then use professional development to review and discuss how to incorporate the UIP targets into instructional plans. |
| **What new knowledge did I gain in my observations and interactions?**   * It is important to continually review the UIP so that it constantly guides instruction. * That it is easy to become complacent with things are going well. * That I want to look for key target areas of improvement in the UIP. * Use the UIP as an instructional guide.   **How will this impact how I make decisions regarding students, staff, and/or parents?**   * Communicate to the staff the importance of how the UIP is designed to enhance student instruction. * Communicate with the staff that they should be able to demonstrate in their instructional plans how they are working toward stated learning targets for growth and achievement. | **How will this impact those I lead? What will I need to supervise closely and what can be delegated?**   * I will want to create a strong teacher leadership team to mentor those teachers who struggle with using the UIP to guide instruction on a regular basis.   **How will this impact my leadership processes?**   * As an instructional leader, I will want to engage staff members and seek their input on ways they are using the UIP to guide instruction. * I will designate teacher leaders to provide specific guidelines and information on how to align the UIP to their instruction. |
| **‍‍*Critical Issues* to remember as I make decisions regarding students, employees, and/or parents and the law:**  Everything related to evaluation and assessment hinges on creating a UIP that truly guides instruction so that students grow and achieve and teachers learn to view the UIP as a major component in their instructional framework. | |