

MY JOURNEY

as a Graduate Student in the Masters of Education in Digital Learning and Leading Program at Lamar University

It had been 10 months after I had completed my undergraduate degree, a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, before I decided to continue my education with an advanced degree. It was also my second year teaching first grade. Some would say I was too new to the game, but I was ambitious. I was certain I wanted to start this journey—all on my own.

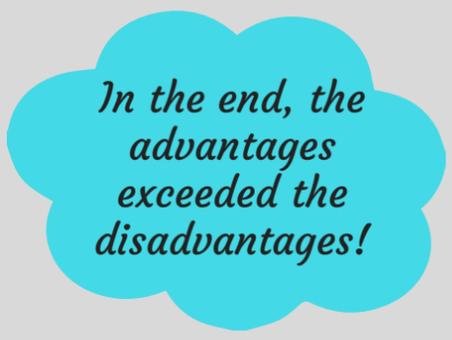




- Great investment for my future
- Challenging myself & exceeding my own expectations
- Lots & lots of learning from engaging readings, videos, and discussions
- Advancement in knowledge & practice of technology
- Choice, ownership, voice, and authenticity of assignments (COVA)
- Creating significant learning environments (CSLE)



- Large investment \$\$\$
- Balancing work & school for 18 months
- Reading requirements
- Time allotted for assignments
- Time consumed completing assignments
- No weekends 😞



In the end, the advantages exceeded the disadvantages!



During the learning process throughout the program, I felt many emotions. At my highest points, I felt like I was conquering the world. Other times, I was just trying to get the job done. But during my lowest points, I plainly just wanted to quit. It was quite a roller coaster of emotions, but I made it, and it was all worth it.

MY CREATION WAS MY INNOVATION PLAN. Project Based eLearning (PBeL)



My biggest accomplishment was completing this program.

- EDLD 5302 Concepts of Education Technology
- EDLD 5303 Applying Educational Technology Portfolio
- EDLD 5304 Leading Organizational Change
- EDLD 5305 Disruptive Innovation in Education
- EDLD 5313 Creating Significant Learning Environments
- EDLD 5314 Digital Learning in Local and Global Contexts
- EDLD 5315 Assessing Digital Learning and Instruction
- EDLD 5316 Digital Citizenship
- EDLD 5317 Resources for Digital Environments
- EDLD 5318 Instructional Design in Online Learning
- EDLD 5388 Special Topics-Technology
- EDLD 5320 Synthesis of Digital Learning and Leadership (Capstone)

Overall, I believe all of the work I completed in this program has great potential, but I also believe it to have a lot of room for improvement. As I begin to implement my innovation plan, I will make any changes before, during, and after based on needs and circumstances. Two of the many lessons that I learned throughout this program was 1) that I will never be fully prepared for anything because, well, that's just how life works, and 2) that I need to let go of my fears and take risks, lots of them, in order to learn and grow personally and professionally. Today, I am a learner. Tomorrow, I will be a leader.

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