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.

The Highs

- 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 (CDVA)
- Creating significant learning environments (CSLE)

The Lows

- 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.