

Summary of Portfolio

In organizing, writing and assembling my portfolio, I relived my journey to becoming a math teacher. This journey started in high school, where math was my favorite subject. Then, in college I decided to major in mathematics, giving serious thought to becoming a teacher but ultimately choosing the technical path.

During the mid 1990s, I learned about alternate teacher certification and even took the Praxis II math content test with the intention of pursuing a teaching career. However, other career opportunities arose that prevented me from acting on that intention at that time.

By September of 2004, I was ready once again for a career change, envisioning becoming a teacher in the Montana Rockies. Thank to the NPTT Program, I was able to take a leap of faith to fulfill my dreams. Moving to Missoula and finding a part-time high school math position was amazing. Moving again to Idaho and becoming a full time teacher has given me the experience needed to reflect on my teaching beliefs.

I am at a point where I can gain insight from my self evaluation, as evidenced by my professional development plan where I identified my strengths and areas for improvement. This has allowed me to realize that I do have the raw skills and desire to be a teacher. I now see myself as a math teacher with

strong goals of improvement as evidenced by the four components of my action plan.

I can also see my vision of contributing to math reform becoming a reality with much work ahead. I believe showing students how applied math can impact their lives is a key factor in math reform and I plan on showing students how to cross over the "bridge" and take math from the classroom into their adult lives, using it as a tool for their benefit.

Finally, reviewing my own works in preparation for this portfolio has given me the opportunity to see just how dedicated I am to achieving excellence in becoming a teacher. I am proud to say I have given my best in earning seven "A's" and one "B+" (93%) in our NPTT program and believe the reviewer will see my works as strong evidence of my commitment to excellence in being a math teacher.