

All the Places I Will Go
by: Elizabeth Collins

"I love to travel, but hate to arrive."

- Albert Einstein

I know my learning journey does not end on graduation day. Learning is a lifelong journey. When you arrive at one destination, you will quickly see a new horizon that you must venture towards. I want this philosophy to guide me in my future as a learner because I feel excitement and joy when I learn new things. Researching, developing my own opinions, and sharing them makes me feel like a productive member of any team or any organization I am a part of. In order for me to lead an enriching and fulfilling life I know that I must continue to learn and grow because I enjoy it so much.

Sometimes I think that my love for education, and my desire to be part of it, came directly from my love for learning. I never want to think that my learning journey is complete. I envision myself as a member of a learning society, where in the future I am constantly seeking knowledge. This is especially true with technology and learning. I think that with technology we all will have to continue to be learners as technology changes daily. How we learn has changed and how our students learn has changed. We are fortunate to be part of society now because access is so abundant and more information is available almost instantly.

My future as a learner includes continuing my own education by completing a Ph.D. program. In what area specifically, I am still not sure. However, I know that this is a necessary step for me both because of my love of learning and also for the career advancement I am seeking. I am hoping that next year I will have the amazing opportunity to be part of the Education Policy Fellowship Program (<http://epfp.educ.msu.edu/>). This leadership development program will allow me to learn a lot about

educational policy design and implementation at the local, state and national levels. This is an excellent learning opportunity that is right in line with what I see as my future as a learner.

I also have begun to dip my toe into the learning opportunities available for me in my current position with the Michigan Department of Education. Technology and learning is a focus at MDE and I have recently been part of a workgroup that has begun the process of looking at the what technology offered the learner in the K12 classroom. This is in the very early stages, but I am excited about learning what my colleagues have to share and also about sharing my own experiences.

Our Governor has an initiative that is calling for Any Time, Any Place, Any Where, Any Pace learning and I am looking forward to learning what I can do to make this a reality for students in Michigan. I believe very strongly in this initiative and know that technology is at the core of making this reality.

I want to teach in an online setting and even learning where those opportunities are is important to me. I have started the process of researching these opportunities and am excited that technology allows me to search a broader area than the just the distance I am willing to travel near my home. I know from my own classes that working collaboratively with people from different locations is an enriching experience. I want to continue to learn from others and find that I learn the most from people who are different than me. Technology allows us to be close, when distance is far.

Learning is a lifelong journey for me. I like to set milestones in my life because my goal is to be happy and feel fulfilled. I believe the key to achieving my goal is through my future as a learner and that each milestone brings me that much closer to my goal. Every aspect of your life involves learning. I can constantly improve everything in my life by investing time into learning. Luckily this program gave me

the tools I need to navigate my way.