CLARIFYING YOUR CAREER PATHWAY

Module 1 EDCI660B

Purdue University

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I have a passion for exploring new ways to educate students in the U.S. and beyond. I enjoy research and discovery, and feel that I can make changes in education through this means. Instructional Design provides a door to this opportunity because of its versatility. I want to make a difference in the lives of others and feel that research in this field will lead me to discover new and innovative ways to provide new experiences in education.

After reviewing the materials for module one, I became very enthusiastic about how I can make a difference in this field and the competencies I need to be successful. After reviewing the videos I was inspired by Dr. Newby, Dr. Connolly and Dr. Ottenbreit-Leftwich. Dr. Newby’s review and advice for practicums and internships brought more clarity into ways of accomplishing these without provoking anxiety and I came away with the thought of “this is not that bad”. Some of the advice from Dr. Newby and former students includes: choosing a topic to stretch your knowledge and stay away from sticking with something you know well, don’t advertise that you are not expecting to be paid, consider your transportation needs and if you think you will struggle in an environment if you do not speak the language well. Also consider how to calculate the amount of time a project will take you, work with organizations to keep the scope of the project at a reasonable length so you do not run out of time, and establish SMEs early, even before the project starts. Don’t wait until the last minute to look for projects. They can be found in your current workplace, through Purdue faculty or cold calling companies you think may be interested in what you have to offer.

I was very engrossed in Dr. Connolly’s presentation and with Dr. Ottenbreit—Leftwich’s presentation. Dr. Connolly inspired me to consider a PhD in LDT because of his passion for teaching and creating a better learning experience for all students. I was completely transfixed on what Dr. Ottenbreit-Leftwich was trying to accomplish with her research. Both of these professors were very intentional and interesting offering the similar message that we can make a difference with technology in the teaching
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and learning field. Dr. Ottenbreit-Leftwich described Technology Integration and methods that are currently being used by teachers as well as her proposed methods for meaningfully and innovatively using technology to recreate the learning experience. Dr. Connolly's work with virtual education is fascinating and is living out what Dr. Ottenbreit-Leftwich is proposing. Dr. Connolly described how the PhD program improved him as a researcher and educator in areas of communication, writing, his level of professionalism, use of instructional design strategies, and is being called to serve, due to his growing expertise, on accreditation boards. Both of these presentations created a motivation within me to learn more about the field and options available within my interests and passions.

There are many professional societies and organizations that I use and enjoy membership in, that provide opportunities for networking, collaboration and training. One is the ASTD. I have membership in the national and the Indiana Chapter and have taken advantage of local conferences and learning events. The ASTD’s resources are featured in the Competencies and Jobs folder and are a great help in determining what competencies I need whether designing a class, training or coaching etc. I especially like the interactive competency model located on the ASTD at:

http://www.astd.org/Certification/Competency-Model.aspx. The model is easy to use and provides a quick visual representation with pop-out sections that bullet point the competencies needed for each category.

Another organization I subscribe to is SALT, The Society for Applied Learning Technology. It offers free webinars that cover topics in educational technology, job listings for the educational technology industry, publications and industry news. As an e-learning developer I have taken advantage of webinar courses offered by this society such as “Twitter as a means of Content Delivery in Traditional and E-learning environments” and “Comparing Captivate and Storyline” both of which cover aspects of my current position as an e-learning developer.
While watching the Allison Rossette video on Youtube I became frustrated with the delivery of the video. Her verbal content was interesting but the design of the video was very counter to the speech. I was bothered that the slide content was not visible, that she shouted at the audience and that it was an hour long video of a talking head. Not innovative learning by any standpoint and I think this is a great example of what I am looking to combat in my professional career. It is not just about content but delivery of the content. When I am looking to learn about development I look to websites like Bottom Line Performance. Companies that deliver elearning can also be inspiring in class instruction if the course designer is open to different learning techniques. One Instructional Design job ad I found on Indeed had this as the qualification:

“Doctorate preferred; Master’s degree in Instructional Design, Educational Technology, or related degree required. Strong preference will be given to candidates with an established track record as an effective instructor who utilizes technology-enhanced teaching”.


I am sure they are not asking for someone who stands and lectures with bulleted powerpoints.

I viewed three TED talks today each featuring a speaker presenting three different aspects of learning innovation. All three had the same theme and that is, we need a revolution in education. The links to these are below:

Charles Leadbeater: Education Innovation in the Slums

Sir Ken Robinson: Bring on the Learning Revolution

Sugata Mira: How Kids Can Teach Themselves
These three talks, as TED Talks do, inspired me and gave me a feeling of hope. This is what I want to do and discover. The three speakers find simple yet extraordinary ways of using something ordinary in a new way resulting in a huge impact. I feel the tools we have are right here and we just need to be open about repurposing the tools. I know as an Instructional Designer in the LDT program, I am going to be able to take the knowledge I am acquiring and make the world, at least my corner of it for now, a better place.

Resources


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