

Overall Course Reflections:

Returning to school was a significant step toward gaining knowledge and further guiding my leadership decision-making. It informs and inspires my growth and personal goal of completing my doctorate in Educational Leadership, which has been on hold for years.

In the EDLD 9531: Educational Leadership in the 21st Century class, I refreshed my knowledge and gained valuable insights into the leadership theories we have been studying. However, one thing I really like is the possibility of connecting what I am learning to my agency's (GaDOE) vision for Transformational Leadership. Additionally, another theory that has impacted my understanding and desire to explore intentionally is mindfulness practice in leadership. When paired, these theories can add purposeful action for leaders today.

The EDLD9631: Research Seminar I class expanded my horizons through the reading materials we reviewed. The literature review helped me understand the process and steps of the doctoral journey, which I hope one day will come to fruition. I gained an understanding of methodologies and the data collection process. The Dissertation Topic Matrix and the Literature Review Matrix assignments were very insightful in helping me select my dissertation's problem of practice. Furthermore, we conducted interviews with a recent graduate doctoral student and a current professor/researcher. The interviews provided valuable insights not only for navigating the dissertation process more safely but also for considering what it is like to be a faculty member and researcher, including advantages and disadvantages, and for exploring my motivations for becoming a faculty member/researcher. I am grateful for the time and expertise shared by those I interviewed, which I see as a reflection of the supportive academic community I am fortunate to be part of.

I sincerely appreciate the support from my professors, whose motivation and guidance have been vital to my growth through these courses. Their encouragement has helped me stay committed to my goals. I value their feedback on my class assignments, as it is incredibly beneficial for my ongoing professional development.