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When I began the Educational Technology doctorate program in 2012, I was looking to improve instructional benefits for my students and positively impact other educators. Little did I know the journey it would take me on. In the first year of the doctoral program, we were asked to share conferences we were presenting at and other such honors. I quickly realized I needed to step up my game. I had never presented at a conference, nor was I sure that I had much to offer other educators. I recruited a colleague to apply to present with me at conferences and other educator workshops. I recruited additional colleagues as situations changed and amassed a list of opportunities I have been lucky to be a part of.

I started to share my experiences in the classroom at various conferences beginning with the 2013 Radical Innovation Summit in Washington D.C. and then as a strand provider for robotics and 3D printing at the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018 i-STEM Summer Institutes. In addition, I presented students work with robotics and 3D printing at the 2014, 2015, 2017 NCCE Conferences. I also presented on robotics programmed in C++ at 2018 SEEC and 2018 IETA. I have been recognized as a 2014 State Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and attended the Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy in Pittsburgh, PA in July of 2015. I also received the 2016 K-6 Industry's Excellent Educators Dedicated to STEM award for work integrating industry into the classroom and providing real world science experiences. I was awarded Teacher of the Year for my school in 2007, 2012, and 2017, and more recently, participated as a 2018-2019 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Semi-Finalist. I strive to grow professionally by attending conferences, educator institutes, and participating in various opportunities such as Maven Elementary Educator Summit, NASA Microgravity University for Educators, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) 4th Annual National Summer Teacher Institute and Picademy, during August 2017.



More recently, I was honored to become a new member of Space Exploration Educator Crew in January of 2018 through Space Center Houston and a 2018-2019 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow. Throughout these same years I also received over \$60,000 in grant funds for my classroom and school. You might think a doctoral program can't be responsible for all these achievements; however, I would say that where initiative meets opportunities, accomplishments happen.

This new chapter of my career, as an Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellow working with Library of Congress, is an amazing accomplishment. I attribute the work ethic, skills, and experiences during my doctoral program as a major contributor to where I will be in September, starting my fellowship in Washington, D.C. The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship (AEF) Program provides a unique opportunity for accomplished K-12 STEM educators to apply their extensive classroom knowledge and experiences to their host offices to inform federal STEM education efforts. The 2018-2019 Einstein Fellows come from K-12 schools across the country and represent diverse teaching backgrounds—with expertise in computer science, engineering, science, and mathematics. Federal agencies and U.S. Congressional Offices will benefit from fellows' real-world experiences as educators. In return, Einstein Fellows will gain understanding of the role of the Federal Government in the U.S. education enterprise, knowledge of resources available to students and educators, and broader perspectives on national education issues that can be applied to the classroom or to leadership positions in their districts or elsewhere. I encourage everyone to find their passions, seek the programs that will push you, and understand what success is to you.