

Exhibit 4.4.i.2

EDUC 352 – Cultural Diversity Practicum

The following are examples of comments candidates shared on the discussion board after they had completed their cultural diversity practicum fall semester 2014.

Student One:

I truly enjoyed this practicum and experiencing first hand a culturally diverse classroom. Being from North Dakota, there is not a big population of diverse cultures so I think we are a little sheltered on how some people grow up and live in poverty. The first grade class I was in did not have a one Caucasian student. The majority of the students were African American along with Hispanic and Asian. These students enjoyed coming to school every day and learning. The teacher I was placed with was great with the students and it was evident that they meant everything to her. The students loved having a positive role model in their life that believed in them. I observed that the children learned best while being actively engaged. They enjoyed math because they got to chant out numbers and do different hand actions while counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s. My 3 days at this school were a blast and I am very glad that I got this experience. The staff members at Zanewood were very welcoming and it was evident that they took pride in their school. This experience will greatly help me as a future teacher.

Student Two:

This was an experience that impacted my future as a teacher and honestly as an adult in communities. I completed my practicum in St. Paul, MN at Riverview Elementary. Pulling up to the school I knew that this was going to be 3 days of stress and learning that I would never forget. The teacher that I was able to observe was one of the most task-managing/student-managing women I have ever had the privilege of being around. The students in my practicum knew that I was different and not from around there, it was not only because I was a different skin color either. Students in these classrooms were given clothes, food and many other things to accommodate to the Riverview education system. I realized the benefits I had from a family that had dinner ready for me when I came home, and that dinner was not just from taco bell like **Lonelle** might have had. I was able to see students go from sharing pencils with each other to punching that classmate in the back of the head on the playground. I had never really witnessed a fist-to-fist fight from students so young, when I saw things happen like this i would break it up and honestly was not easy. I had many jaw dropping events happen, but non-more than the experience that overruled that time I had with Jimmy. Jimmy was a student that had the worst attitude coming into class I had ever seen. He would walk in when he wanted and walk out when he wanted. Ms. Wilson realized that she could only contact the parent so much until she just ignored Jimmy when he would do this. One day **Ms. Wilson** asked me to help him with his math and I knew I was in for quit an experience when this happened.

Jimmy's mathematics was not at a 4th grade level and we were working on subtraction using blocks. He started off by complaining and eventually I was able to relate the blocks to something of interest to him. We practiced a few problems together and eventually Jimmy was doing problems by himself. I had never come so close to tearing up when he ran over to Ms. Wilson and showed her what he had done, by himself. It was an experience that I will never forget and will have memories and skills learned that will help me further my future as a teacher.

Student Three:

I had a great experience during my culturally diverse practicum. I was at Riverview Elementary which is a 2-way Spanish Immersion school, meaning that kids come speaking Spanish and wanting to learn English and vice versa. I spent my 3 days there in a pre-K classroom, so all of the kids were 4. They were so adorable. My cooperating teacher was amazing and a great mentor. The school is in a very diverse area and really is inner city so many students come to the school from homes that don't speak English. This was very interesting for me being in a pre-K classroom because for some of the kids the 5 weeks they have been in school marks the beginning of them learning English. We had kids who came to school only knowing, Hmong, Somali, and Spanish in our classroom. From an outsider's perspective it would be easy to assume that these kids were not understanding much of what was going on in the classroom but my teacher showed me ways of uncovering what was really going on by letting them use pictures and making their own art. One of the little Hmong boys in the class had very little vocabulary but when I was able to sit down with him and use these techniques it was incredible what he knew. He was able to count far into the double digits, which is beyond what most of the kids in the class were able to do at this point. I also learned some classroom management techniques; my teacher had songs for everything. The kids loved the songs and it really helped them to transition to another activity. My teacher warned me that while working in the inner city you usually lose 5 of the children in your class every year. I was there to witness this in action. In my short 3 days there I saw a girl get pulled out of the class to move to head start because her dad couldn't have her in half-day school with his work schedule. There was also a boy whose grandmother was sick so he had missed 15 days of school already, just before he was about to be dropped from the school he showed up, but this doesn't happen for a lot of the kids there. I absolutely loved my experience though, the kids were amazing I really bonded with them and my teacher was incredible I would love to go back and do my student teaching there.

Student Four:

I did my cultural diversity practicum at Zanewood Community School in Brooklyn Park, MN. Although it was only a three-day experience, I learned so much about teaching and about the demographics of this particular school. To make my post easier to understand I will break it into different sections!

Zanewood:

This elementary school was extremely interesting. The school goes from PreK-6th grade and their school day runs from 9:30-4:00 (this was super nice for me since I had an hour drive in the morning). In my particular class, which was a 5th grade class, there was a total of 18 students. The diversity of the students amazed me. Of the 18 students, 9 identified as Black, 1 as White, 4 as Hispanic, and 4 as Asian/Pacific Islander. Some of these students even emigrated from Africa. This was a great experience for me to have because I came from a school that was almost entirely white. Another aspect of the classroom I found interesting was that 7 of the students were English language learners, and 16 of the 18 were using Federal School Lunch Assistance. Also that there was about a 50% rate of transition at Zanewood, students were basically constantly leaving and coming throughout the year. This really opened my eyes to all of the different backgrounds that my future students will come from and that I need to be prepared to teach and help them in relation to this.

Student Five:

I had a very eye opening experience observing at Circle of Nations in Wahpeton, ND this past week. I was placed in a 4th grade classroom with students all coming from different tribal backgrounds. They were some of the sweetest kids on earth. I could definitely see myself teaching in a culturally diverse setting. I was sad to see how far behind some of the students were. When I talked to the teacher about the wide range in levels she said part of it was that some of the students had just been placed here a couple weeks ago and were trying to catch up. The students were also constantly being pulled out of class for evaluations and one-on-one-help. I noticed some of the students had very little motivation for homework. One of the girls said that her parents might be coming to pick her up from the school for good so she didn't think she should have to do any homework. The teacher told me a lot of these kids are given false hope and that can put a halt on homework. Another incident was on the last day of my practicum. A student that regularly didn't participate in class was completely turned off for about 2 hours on Friday. He put his hood up and his head down on his desk refusing to speak or participate. The teacher wasn't able to get the student to move or speak and the school psychologist was called in and the situation still remained about the same. I went over to the student and started talking to him and eventually got him to start his homework. I was so excited that I was able to connect enough with the student to get him started. I even got a smile out of him! Its moments like this that make me so excited to become a teacher one day. He was very bright and had a much better afternoon. That moment definitely made my day. I am happy I was fortunate enough to get this amazing experience under my belt and it made me realize how good I have it. I tried putting myself in their shoes. These kids are only 4th graders and are completely separated from their families for long periods of time. They are constantly moved around to different schools and I can't imagine how hard it is for them to keep close relationships. Overall, this experience gave me a better look and understanding of diversity in the classroom. I will never forget this past week and the impact the students had on my learning.