Teacher Leadership Final Essay and Plan of Action

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I cannot believe that this is the end of this semester. Time flies so fast! Looking back to these four months, I am sure I have grown as a teacher and being aware of I am a teacher leader, I feel more confident in this profession. Throughout this semester, I learned a lot in class and after class. In class, I engaged in discussions in big groups and small groups, video reviews, thought-provoking quotes and other outside classroom activities; after class, from the weekly reading, weekly posts from my peers, leaders interview and my weekly leadership journal, I observed, thought, expressed, learned and reflected. Personally, from all of these, I realized that I myself am a teacher leader, not only in my classroom, but also in my field and in the community. I've gained knowledge on teachers as leaders in classroom, in schools, in community and in this field. Gradually, teacher leadership is not a term anymore, but a quality I have, and actions I need and must take. From the learning experience, I've recognized what a good teacher leader is like and how to become a better leader; I've seen and observed various good teacher leadership examples from my classmates and the videos; I've taken away lots of ideas from our valuable discussion in class. From my reflection and refraction of being a teacher leader, I conclude that teacher leadership is the art of teachers influencing students, colleagues and parents to improve their achievements and contributing to the class, the school and the community.

My definition could be shown in my leadership journal, my reading notes and my weekly post. Looking thought all of them, there are three themes that I detected very much.

**Teacher Leaders Open the Classroom Door**

A crucial step in developing teacher power is to connect with others. A good teacher leader connects with other teachers to exchange ideas and experiences and philosophies about their teaching practice, leading to a community of learners. A good teacher leader reaches out to students’ families because families have great impact on student learning and seeks to promote partnership among different families toward the common goal of excellent education. A good teacher leader also builds trust and understanding with school official leaders to gain professional support.

**Teacher Leaders are Life-long Learners**

Although the learning curve of our profession is going up first and then going down, teacher leaders continue professional learning, keep updated with advanced pedagogy and teaching strategies to develop professional qualities. Some good ways for professional development are attending workshops, joining professional development association and conducting teacher research.

**Teacher Leaders Speak Up and Contribute to a Positive School Culture**

A good teacher leader is an active contributor to a professional community. He/She always could find a way to speak out that is strategic and accomplishes something worthwhile. What he/she advocates helps create a more positive, safer and sharing environment, which is good for both students and educators.

**My Personal Leadership Plan of Action**

From all I learned about teacher leadership this semester and my personal situation, I create a plan for myself as follows.

* Open my classroom door--- Invite other teachers to observe my class, ask if I could observe their classrooms and communicate with my colleagues regularly on both personal life and professional life.
* Reflection--- Write down reflection every day after class and talk about my observation and reflection with other teachers.
* Reach out families--- After every class, speak to one parent.
* Professional development--- Attend at lease one professional conference and five professional workshop every year.
* Try to speak up-- Write down what I observe in school and talk to the principal or the director after making a thorough plan.
* Keep writing this leadership journal every week. Write down what I observe and think about.

I believe as long as I keep doing all of the above, I will become a better teacher leader!