

Learning Goals Retrospective

*"Self-reflection is the school of wisdom."
- Baltasar Gracián y Morales (1601-1658)*

In the fall of 2017, my educational journey of self-directed learning had reached a crossroads. The path on which I had been traveling over the last two and a half decades, after completing my undergraduate degree at the [University of Maryland at College Park](#) in 1996, was fragmented with no clear destination in sight. I knew where I wanted my new educational journey to take me and who I wanted to become as a result of the experience. My educational goals were the same then as they are now: I am always seeking to become a better version of myself. I wanted to continue to grow as a lifelong learner and challenge myself. I wanted to learn new approaches and strategies to provide a positive and transformative experience for all of the learners and athletes with whom I get to interact. I wanted to become more like the educators and coaches who have had such an amazing and positive impact on my life.

This was when I realized that I would have to set out on a new journey by opening myself up to new experiences and working with new guides. This was an approach I had used many times in the past when I came to the realization that I had reached the edge of my abilities and understanding. It was now time for me to make a larger commitment to my personal development and education. That was when I began my search for a graduate program that focused on my passions: learning, educating, and youth sport coaching. That search led me to the [Michigan State University Master of Arts in Education \(MAED\)](#) program where I once again picked up the tracks that put me on the path where I find myself today. As a learner in the [MAED](#) program I have had my horizons expanded by learning new methods of inquiry, discovered the true meaning of what being a youth sport coach, and have learned myriad pedagogical approaches to enhance learning in my classroom.

With my time in the program coming to an end, the original goals that I had set for myself have not changed and have been reinforced. My experiences over the last three years as a learner in the program have been both transformative and transformational. The [MAED](#) program has taken me from an introduction to educational inquiry to promoting the positive development of youth sport athletes to the creation of an online professional portfolio. I am truly a better version of myself in all my roles as a result of the program, and the major takeaway has been the reminder that there is still so much I have to learn.

As the tracks that lay behind me begin to vanish over time, and the echoes of the voices shepherding me on my learning journey begin to fade, I now have the resources, confidence and experiences to guide myself to the next path on which to take my next first steps...