**6.1 Continuous Learning**

Candidates demonstrate continual growth in knowledge and skills of current and emerging technologies and apply them to improve personal productivity and professional practice.

Reflection

The Continuous Learning assignment was completed to document my commitment to continual growth in knowledge and skills of current and emerging technologies and apply them to improve personal productivity and professional practice. The artifact I chose was my unstructured field experience log which documents my attendance at the 2014 ISTE Conference, held here in Atlanta. The Continuous Learning assignment meets the International Society for Technology in Education’s (ISTE) Essential Condition of Ongoing Professional Learning- “Technology-related professional learning plans and opportunities with dedicated time to practice and share ideas” (Williamson and Redish, 2009, p.13). I also feel that ISTE’s Essential Condition of Skilled Personnel- “Educators and support staff skilled in the use of technology appropriate for their job responsibilities” (Williamson and Redish, 2009, p.13) was also addressed.

Standard 6.1 Continuous Learning outlines the criteria candidates need to demonstrate continual growth in knowledge and skills of current and emerging technologies and apply them to improve personal productivity and professional practice. My participation in the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) is the best example of my commitment to continuous learning. As an ITEC student, I was given the opportunity to apply for a scholarship to attend the conference. The application included the following four open-ended constructed responses: 1) In 100 words or less, please explain your K-12 technology leadership activities to date: 2) In 100 words or less, please explain how you would like to influence the use of technology in K-12 schools in the future: 3) In 250 words or less, explain why you want to attend ISTE 2014: 4) In 100 words or less, please explain how you will share what you learned at ISTE 2014 with others:. Apparently, I responded favorably, because I was awarded one of several ISTE Conference Scholarships. I did not promise to become a technology guru, but I did however; promise to attend the conference with an open mind, engage in meaningful exchanges, and to share what I learned with those within my circle of influence. I believe that I kept my promise. I signed-up to volunteer to stuff the conference bags prior to the official start of the conference. While volunteering, I met another volunteer-participant from Savannah, GA named Majorie. She and I were inseparable. This was not her first conference, so I followed her lead until I got the hang of how things worked. She and I made plans to do to attend ISTE 2015 in Philadelphia, but I didn’t make it. We still keep in touch. In fact, I am looking forward to attending her wedding in March 2019 in Savannah, GA.

Completing the unstructured field experience by attending the ISTE Conference was an amazing experience. In addition to learning about emerging technologies, I met a friend. Marjorie works with high school aged students and we often compare notes on how our students are engaging with technology. If I had to do this experience again, I would probably tweet more, and take and share more photos. One of the conditions of the scholarship was to post and tweet-including pictures, log activities, and complete a post conference report.

“During the four day conference I was infused with Standard 3: Digital Learning Environments- Candidates demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to create, support, and manage effective digital learning environments. Presenters and vendors spoke about tools that help educators manage digital tools and resources (3.2); I learned about using Adaptive and Assistive Technology to support student learning (3.4); I used new technology and made informal observations regarding selecting and evaluating digital tools and resources (3.6); I engaged in communication and collaboration by sending and reading Tweets (3.7); I was engaged in professional learning (5.2); attending the conference gave me the opportunity for continuous learning- I’m going to ISTE 2015 in Philadelphia (6.1); I was constantly reflecting on my experiences (6.2); and finally, attending the conference counts towards my unstructured field experience (6.3).” (Storey, 2014, ITEC 7410 Unstructured Field Experience Log)

The work that went into creating this artifact was a life learning, and life altering experience. I participated in continuous growth in knowledge and in skill of current and emerging technologies. I applied them to my person and professional technology-related practices. I collaborated with educators from around the world. I was engaged, and had fun learning about and using technology. The impact of my increased professional learning was measured by the change in my practices, my conversations and interactions, and in my increased awareness and knowledge of emerging technology. Over time, increased student engagement, and student achievement will get reported in increased College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores for the building in which I work.