

(no) NCUR Reflection
EDSP 306, EDSP 307 and EDSP 458
Spring 2020
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All EDSP students, we are most certainly in an unprecedented space and time. COVID-19 has upended all that we knew as “normal” and has forced us into ‘distancing’ ourselves—which, if I may be honest, is so challenging for many, including myself! It goes without saying, I will miss seeing you all in person—but am happy to connect online! 😊

Given our current climate and academic situation. The intent of an NCUR Reflection was to connect (and reflect 😊) your EDSP experience(s) to undergraduate research shared at the conference. I believe I told many of you that I reviewed a number of the proposals and was excited to see the connections you all would make!

With that, I’d like you to reflect on three things:

(1) How has COVID-19 impacted you as a student? Share as much or as little as you’d like. This is your reflection and I want to be sensitive to everyone’s experiences;

COVID-19 has certainly affected my life, but I choose to look at it in a more positive way. I have always loved spending time with my family, and this just means more time to help out on our family farm. I have two younger siblings, and they are both home as well. Growing up in the middle of nowhere has proven to have its benefits over and over again, especially during this time. I feel a lot less worried about the virus where I am, because we live in isolation year-round anyways! We are still taking precautions around my grandparents and when we go out and about, but for the most part we have been going about our daily lives.

As for schooling, this has been quite a bit of an adjustment, as it has for everyone else as well. I have taken several online classes before, so that has helped make it a smoother transition, but it has still proven to be stressful trying to keep track of all my assignments and when my online lectures take place. One thing I was very bummed about, was the end of my first practicum experience. This semester has been very humbling, as I got my first practicum experience working with 8th graders, and teaching them high school algebra. It was a challenge, but it was a challenge I enjoyed, so having it come to an abrupt end was very sad.

(2) As a future educator (or professional), I’d like you to think through what you’d do for your students/families/clients if the COVID-19 pandemic ‘hit’ post-graduation—what measures would you put in place to connect and support?

First off, connect, connect, connect. That would be the main thing I would do with my future students/families. My siblings have had multiple WebEx calls with their teachers and peers to get the face-to-face interaction. They have stated multiple times how much they miss their classmates and friends at school, so I think it is a great way to get them all together, in one place virtually. I would also record different lectures to form some sort of instruction for my students. I think this would depend on

the grade level in a way, but I think it would be necessary. In order to keep families involved and updated, I would send 'gentle' emails to the families several times a week to keep them updated on homework and just to check in in general. Lastly, I would encourage setting up WebEx meetings with my students if they had any questions, or just wanted to chat. With this being such an uncertain time, having the support of just having someone to talk to would be so beneficial.

And finally, (3) how can I support you for the rest of the semester? What things do I need to make sure to have in place to ease this time of uncertainty?

If you keep doing what you are doing, I will feel so supported through the rest of the semester. I sincerely appreciate all the time and effort you pour into your students. It doesn't go unseen. Just keeping us updated and sending reminders is so helpful!

Enjoy your time with your family! After all, they are our biggest blessings!

My hope is that you all know how much I care for my students and ESPECIALLY right now, I want to make sure you feel supported and cared for even more—Jody 😊