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CONTEXT:

To demonstrate my ability to show my professional growth in the leadership competencies of time management, strategic agility and innovation management, and presentation skills, I created the “Learning Journey” slide deck and delivered a presentation to my classmates and instructors.

LEARNING OUTCOME:

This artifact addresses the following Learning Outcome from the *Strategic Leadership* class.

SL-03. Demonstrate the ability to show professional growth in leadership related to the individual development plan.

REFLECTION:

The “Learning Journey” slideshow and presentation described my growth in the following three education competencies: Time Management, Strategic Agility and Innovation Management, and Presentation Skills. The artifact was created using Google Slides and incorporates images, animations, and quotes that support the oral delivery of my presentation. The images and quotes about journey, vision, and time management were purposefully selected to convey a meaning that supported what the audience heard. I included screenshots of the resources that helped me grow in these competencies and specifically addressed how the information has changed me from the time I began the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) program. To prepare for the in-class presentation to my instructors and colleagues, I drafted a script for each slide on note cards and rehearsed to make sure that my timing was under 5 minutes. Through using images in the presentation combined with oral presentation, I have demonstrated a mastery of my ability to communicate the professional growth in my leadership as it relates to time management, managing innovation, and presentation skills.

Through creating the “Learning Journey” presentation, I reflected upon how my mindset about leadership has changed since beginning the program and what has lead to the change in how I perceive myself within my organization and in the field of K-12 technology. I looked for evidence of the shift in mindset through the resources that I had listed in my Individual Development Plan (IDP) (<https://goo.gl/vO4uOK>) and found each had impacted my growth to various degrees. Some resources were simply not useful or not used because I felt I did not need that information at this time and so

they were tabled for future reference. Other resources were instrumental in my professional growth - validating my thinking and providing the necessary information to push myself to the next level in leading others.

The three competencies that I focused on were time management, strategic agility and Innovation management, and presentation skills. In all three areas, I placed myself at a starting point of a level 2 with a goal of reaching full competency at a level 4. In two of the three areas, I believe I have achieved my goal. Time management has been a huge issue for me as my workload seems to be ever increasing. Being able to prioritize and map out my week/day/month using bullet journaling techniques, utilizing project managements skills, and “making time” that is designated for priority projects are all resources that I learned about and have applied to my normal work week. As a result, I have been more productive and successful at completing projects and tasks. The second competency, strategic agility and innovation management, is one that I chose to increase my knowledge and stretch my skill set. Innovation is the buzz word and upon first considering what it means, I was a bit overwhelmed due to the modern examples of innovative practice outside the area of K-12 education. As I read George Couros’ book *The Innovator’s Mindset*, I realized that we have implemented innovative practices with our educational technology initiatives when defining innovation as something that is “new and better.” I was particularly struck as to the use of the Law of Diffusion of deploying devices to teachers as it was hauntingly similar to the practice we use to move us toward a more 1:1 environment. My growth in this area is represented by a recognition and validation of the work that I lead in the district as being innovative and strategic in moving the district forward. My final competency was presentation skills, an area that I had much practice but felt that the craft had not been fully perfected. This is the one competency that I felt I moved to a higher proficiency but am not where I would like to be. I read and watched many resources on how to develop presentation skills and have incorporated a number of these into my own style. I am stronger than I was before, but still have room for growth and develop my own unique style and voice.

The “Learning Journey” presentation provided an opportunity to deeply reflect upon my professional growth. A CTO must take in new information, process it, and apply it to their organization and environment. The process of identifying focus areas, gathering and reviewing resources, and applying new knowledge to your situation is the definition of self-directed learning and improvement. It is something that every leader should continuously engage in. This reflective process strengthens my ability to lead and provide a vision for my district and is essential to my success as a CTO.

Through creating the “Learning Journey” I have realized I need to share my experiences as woman who uses technology and leads the transformation of a district that had limited access, no alignment of

technology resources to learning and instruction, and a culture of no. For the past three years, I have been a catalyst for change that puts the needs of students first and have successfully implemented technology initiatives that are student-focused. Through the creation of this artifact, I have confidence in myself as a leader and will use a blog (www.innovateinspirelead.com) to share my leadership and learning and support others in their growth. Blogging presents a level of accountability that will require I stay engaged in the greater K-12 technology community and that I continue to push innovative practices in my district.