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GPFF-407

February 13, 2024

Teaching Philosophy

As an aspiring professor, my primary goal is to provide an exceptional educational experience to all students. I am deeply committed to fostering an environment that encourages intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning [1].

I believe that every student has the potential to excel when given the right tools and guidance. To this end, I aim to create a learning environment that is inclusive, engaging, and responsive to the diverse needs of students. I value cultural diversity in education as it exposes students to different perspectives, fosters cross-cultural understanding and communication, promotes creativity and innovation, and prepares students for a globally interconnected world. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways, such as through guest speakers with diverse backgrounds, international exchange programs, and online learning which enables the inclusion of resources from anywhere in the world [1], [2], [3].

In terms of teaching strategies, I am a proponent of using technology in the classroom. Technology provides ways for students to learn at any time or place and affords the possibility of providing learning at a pace that is comfortable for each student. It also offers different forms of content, giving opportunities for students to have choices about how to learn the material. Furthermore, technology can improve adaptability, enrich collaboration, and make learning more fun. For example, some students may enjoy competing in a quiz game like *Kahoot!*, which provides opportunities for discussion and learning after every question. The excitement of a game show, combined with the immediate opportunity to learn from both correct and incorrect answers, results in a learning pattern that simply does not exist with traditional lectures. Other examples of technology that can be leveraged in the modern classroom includes any Learning Management System (such as *Canvas* or *Blackboard*) and video platforms (such as *YouTube* or *Twitch*), that contain recorded content and live streams from diverse subject matter experts [1], [4], [5].

Beyond being an educator, I see my role as a mentor. The intellectual and professional development of students is shaped, in part, through their interactions with professors. Professors facilitate important questions of ethics and how moral principles should guide one’s behavior in all aspects of life. Moreover, they can help students learn from their mistakes, make decisions about their career path, and even offer guidance when life gets confusing. Office hours are important, but they are often inaccessible for some students due to their own scheduling conflicts. Students in a diverse classroom may be juggling responsibilities such as childcare, one or more jobs, and religious or cultural events. Therefore, I try to make myself available at any time of the week, even if that means late evening or weekend appointments when a student with a particularly busy schedule needs some extra help [1], [6], [7], [8].

In conclusion, I believe that my teaching philosophy, strategies, and goals align well with Howard University’s mission and commitment to excellence, leadership, service, and truth [9]. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the university’s commitment to excellence in education.

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