**FORM 8**

*Georgia Southern University*

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**Department of Leadership, Technology, and Human Development**

**SUPERVISED FIELD EXPERIENCE REFLECTION**

**EDLD 7737/7738 FALL \_\_\_\_ SPRING \_ X\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_2024\_\_\_**

Candidate: Dinah Myrick

Campus Mentor: Mr. Levar Garner

University Supervisor: Dr. Suzanne Miller

School: Center Elementary

**PART I: DESCRIPTION OF THE FIELD EXPERIENCE**

* Date of Activity: March 26-April 11, 2024
* Hours Completed: 10
* Georgia Leadership Standards Met: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8
* Description of the Field Experience Activity and Your Role (100 to 250 words)

**PART II: REFLECTION\***

On March 24, 2024, I submitted my application to apply for the assistant principal position at Waycross Middle School here in Ware County. On March 27th, I was informed via email that my interview would be April 11th. Although I had already began gathering artifacts for my portfolio, with the interview date quickly approaching, I started vehemently researching and studying the academic and discipline data on the school, the vision and mission of the school, the school demographics, and the current initiatives. I also began collecting letters of recommendations from my current and past administrators. Daily, I spent time developing both a hard-copy portfolio as well as a digital copy to present to the panel. I included things like an academic achievement plan, a positive behavior plan, a parent engagement plan, and a building staff capacity plan proposal. I also listened to countless podcasts and tutorials on the assistant principal interview experience. This preparation armed me with the knowledge and confidence to have a successful interview experience. Although, this opportunity did not work in my favor, I am proud of the experience I had and the impression left on the panel. The principal himself told me I did a fantastic job, I am ready, and my day will come. This was all I could ask for and the encouragement I needed to keep trying!

Please reflect on the Field Experience by answering the following questions in at least one paragraph each.

1. Based on your study of leadership, how was this experience aligned with the knowledge base and skills of school leaders and how did this help you to learn information that you will be able to use in your career as a leader?

This experience has elements of all of the 8 LAPS standards, but it most closely aligns with Human Resource Management. It was evident that as the school leader, the principal held the responsibility of carefully selecting an interview panel from the teacher-leaders and current assistant principal in his building. Also, I suspect that developing the set of questions for each candidate was a complex task. Methods to ensure fairness and equal opportunities had to be practiced and finally a decision had to be made from a host of well-qualified candidates. Surely, this was not an easy decision.

From my lens, the experience offered me yet another leadership interview experience at a different level. I found things that were similar to my other experiences, as well as things that were different. Ultimately, I consider the entire process as one that had a positive outcome. I was exposed to different types of questions and interview techniques, and I know I presented as a strong candidate who made the cut to the final three. Maybe next time, or maybe not; however, I will be even more prepared when the next opportunity arises.

1. What did you learn about your own leadership ability or your leadership potential during this field experience?

This experience helped me gain confidence in my decision to work towards a future career as a school leader. Sometimes, we can allow our nerves or insecurities to hamper us from attempting things we desire to do. I actually saw the posting days before applying and did not apply or consider applying until a colleague/friend encouraged me and helped me realize that the worse that could happen was I keep doing what I’m doing (which I love). I felt I did not know the school well enough, I felt like I had more experience at the elementary level, etc. However, I proved to myself that with proper preparation, I can deliver a strong and thorough interview and leave a lasting impression whether I get the position or not.

1. Explain two or three main points about leadership that you learned from this field experience activity.

Two takeaways I learned regarding leadership is are that The Law of Process must be practiced in each leader’s journey, and that leaders who are in a position to hire others must consider The Law of Explosive Growth. Three months ago, I would not have been an insightful, but after reading and really reflecting on Maxwell’s 21 Irrefutable Laws, I am better able to make connections to what I am reading and real-life experiences. As an aspiring leader, I have to understand that my leadership skills have to develop over time, and this development will have to take place within the opportunities to practice leadership. I now understand that those practices do not necessarily have to be within the context of a contractual job. It can be through offering myself to serve in various capacities, etc. It will come. The timing has to be just right and carved out just for me. This speaks to the Law of Timing. I may feel as if I have the skills, expertise, and drive to lead, but for whatever reason, the decision maker may not quite feel that their organization is ready or that I am quite ready for the task. This is more than understandable. It is allowing me a longer season of preparation, so that when my time comes, I can excel.