

Taking Time to Learn

By Christina Wilson

Special education teaching = my passion. That was the beginning of my goal statement that I wrote to get into the MSU master's program in May, 2011 and that is still how I feel now. Since I graduated with my bachelor's degree in 2007 and received my first job as a special education teacher, I have enjoyed my job and the students that I work with.

While reading my goal statement, I realized that my goals have pretty much stayed the same since I began my master's degree. I was hoping that I would learn new strategies and techniques that I could use in my classroom. Throughout my education, there were many things I learned and implemented in the classroom. I was also hoping that I could eventually become a mentor and help other teachers in their new career. I am proud to say that I was asked to be a mentor teacher in the fall of 2012! I was honored and excited to use my knowledge to help another teacher.

As I get closer to finishing my master's degree, my goal of becoming a teacher consultant is still strong. I look forward to furthering myself in my career and look forward to helping both special and regular educators become even better teachers in the classroom by giving them advice on techniques and strategies to use.

When I read my goal statement, I was so excited to be starting school again. Little did I realize how difficult it was going to be to have a full-time job and take two classes per semester.

It got hard at times to juggle everything, but this experience forced me to learn how to be even better organized and responsible.

Looking back to almost two years ago compared to where I am now, I am so glad that I made the decision to further my education at Michigan State University. I have learned so much from the classes that I have taken and have put my education into action in the classroom! I have seen improvements in myself and my students have benefited as well from my advanced learning.