Transcript

I want to start off just telling you a little bit about who I am and what I'm doing right now. This year I have a new role. I am the Coppell High School department chair for the CTE department and I am also the district's secondary CTE lead. In this role, I get to work with a lot of exciting educators who are very passionate about their content in their courses in our current tech department.

Our department represents seven campuses including: Middle School North; Middle School East; Middle School West; Victory Place, our alternative education program; our new Ninth Grade campus that just opened this year; our New Tech High at Coppell program; and Coppell High School.

We have this year 10 educators who are new to our department but from CHS and we have 12 wholly new educators to our district and our department brings us a total of 58 educators in the entire department across seven campuses. We have 71 unique courses among us. And in all of that, we're reaching out to over 3800 students this year.

In addition, I teach our capstone engineering program practicum in STEM, or new cybersecurity course and I also teach a CAD course called engineering design and presentation one. This is a picture of my lab my students are actually setting it up was our first project of the Year for them. I let them arrange the room in the way they thought would work best for them. Among the students and programs I work with in my class, that also includes our solar car team. They just completed a 1300 mile race from Fort Worth to LA this summer in a all solar powered electric car that they built themselves.

I'm also proud to be an Apple Distinguished Educator. A really cool part about being an ADE is that I get to work with some amazing educators from around the world. Last spring, I worked with Karrin and Brian here, as we put together a workshop to talk about coding in K 12 curriculum.
We first got to present our workshop at ISTE in Chicago this past June. Later this past summer, we got to present our workshop to over 300 ADEs from around the world so that they could take the same workshop back to their schools and their communities.

I want to shift gears now and look at some of the leading and learning opportunities that I've had in the past years of my educational career
In 2006 I came to Coppell High School to take over a new engineering course. And eventually that one course grew into our entire engineering program that we have

today. It wasn't without its ups and downs. And a lot of cases, I was not ready to be in the position, I was leaving a new program, leading a new department, and really branching out into something new and creating my own curriculum. There were a lot of ups and downs through all of it through the years, but the district always allowed me to take risks and to try new things. And I brought that into my classroom. And anytime that I had an opportunity to work with other teachers, I always felt that if you were taking risks, you were moving forward with you were learning new things, and you were really advancing who you were, and the the programs around you.

Over the years, I was able to bring some great opportunities to my students and to our school. Such as being a part of the Lemelson MIT program. We actually worked on an invention and then presented it at the MIT campus that next year, I started the solar car program at the request of our students. They wanted to get the team started and we kept it going for the last 11 years. In this picture, you can see one of our past students working with one of our current students. We've had a lot of students such as Rishi in this case, who have gotten jobs mainly because of the work they've done in the solar car program.

Over the years, I've received a number of awards and recognitions. I'm really proud of all that I've done and all that I've accomplished, but I felt that there was still more that I could be doing. Over the years our program has grown. This is just a part of our incoming freshmen class from two years ago. While I've been able to grow the program and done well reaching students and their parents, I've had a hard time reaching my
colleagues and other teachers.

So that brings me to where I'd like to go from here, where I see myself in the future. I want to keep exploring new technologies. I want to keep exploring new methods of learning, and new ways to help engage students. I also want to explore new methods for myself, to bring all of this learning to other teachers.

I want to inspire others to reach out and to take risks. I do have a childlike wonder about the world around me. But at the same time, I wonder what it will take for me to reach these goals. And I'm really looking forward to this program and learning how I can do more and bring the things that I know and the things that I'm passionate about to other people.

Thanks for joining me on this journey as I really looked at who I am as a teacher and as a leader.