GOAL STATEMENT FOR **Michelle R. Fairley**   September 27, 2010
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY, AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

This personal goal statement is to accompany my application to the graduate program in Educational Technology. Below I will outline my professional background, academic interests and goals as they relate to my selection of this program of study.

I completed an associate degree from Oakland Community College and received a Bachelor of Science in Education with minors in Social Science and Science from Western Michigan University. The traditional learning environment was difficult for me due to my Attention Deficit Disorder; despite this challenge, I was able to become a successful student by finding different strategies that fit my learning style. I believe that I am a better teacher because of my learning differences, and have had the opportunity to mentor students with the same challenges. I have helped some become confident in their abilities by teaching them that just because they learn differently does not mean that they are not smart. I have been a teacher in the Northwest Community School District for the past nine years. I have faced the challenge of changing subjects and grade levels every year due to my multiple certifications; I have taught six of the twelve core classes in the middle school. Through facing these many challenges, I have made myself a more effective teacher. In addition to teaching, I have taken advantage of the opportunity to return to school and receive a third minor endorsement in English as well as jumping at any opportunity for professional development, especially those in technology. Some of the professional development opportunities that I have attended include taking graduate curriculum development classes through Spring Arbor University, becoming *a Why Try* certified teacher and attending mathematics workshops. Because of these opportunities, I have developed a better understanding of the curriculum and how to incorporate cross-curricular activities into the classroom. In addition to taking classes, I have served as a presenter on the topics of Attention Deficit Disorder and what to expect during the first years of teaching.

Lifelong learning is something that I have always valued, and try to continue to take advantage of, but the area of technology is something that has intrigued me. I know that different modalities are necessary to teach effectively, and in order to compete with video games and iPods, it is important for the classroom teacher to incorporate engaging activities to keep students' attention. Our district continues to implement the new technology of SMART Boards, document cameras, and SMART Response Systems; I want to be able to utilize this technology to the fullest. I would also like to be able to take my new knowledge and excite my peers to incorporate more interactive lessons into their classes. My hope is that one day I am able to become a facilitator and demonstrate how the incorporation of technology in the classroom excites today's learners and makes them more marketable in the global marketplace.

I have been the "go-to" person for questions concerning technology in my building, and I believe that technology can help reach all learners. The Master of Arts in Educational Technology online program at Michigan State University will teach me how to utilize technology more efficiently and how to enhance learning using technology. With a young family and a full-time teaching position, the online program will allow me some flexibility in scheduling and save me valuable time. I have seen many different types of learners come through my classes and have found that the best way to reach all learners is through technology. The degree will provide me with courses that will enhance my current knowledge, skills and methods, thus allowing me to reach my goal of becoming a technology leader. Finally, this program will help me to learn approaches that are effective for tomorrow's learner.

Because I have been an effective teacher who has been challenged to use technology more and more in order to meet a variety of learner needs and utilize the new technologies constantly becoming available, the Educational Technology program at Michigan State University will enable me to be an even more effective teacher as well as a resource for other teachers. This program will allow me to become a strong leader and support my belief that technology incorporated in the classroom is an important aspect of learning.