Amber Lawson Michigan State University MAED Program About Me Essay

Every since I was a little girl, the only career that I dreamed of having was being a teacher. As an elementary student, I remember enjoying school. I loved my teachers and my family was very involved in my learning. I enjoyed school so much that I would turn my bedroom into a classroom and my teddy bears and dolls into students. As a Girl Scout, through volunteer opportunities, I had chances to work with small children through buddy reading and helping with arts and crafts. I realized early on that I enjoyed working with young children.

As a high school student, I attended Renaissance, a Detroit Public School. I spent my summers at Michigan State University's Broad Summer High School Scholars Program. The classes that I took not only prepared me for college but they also nurtured my interest in starting a career in education. While there, many of my classes focused on socio-cultural issues and understanding cultural diversity, two important aspects of urban education.

My experiences as a Broad Scholar encouraged me to be a member of the Urban Educators Cohort Program when I went to MSU. Many of my courses specifically prepared me to work in areas with limited resources to provide students with as many opportunities possible to be successful and life long learners. I learned more than just teaching students but the structures of power, privilege, poverty, and social justice. Being a member of UECP prepared me to not only teach, but to be a successful teacher in the communities that need exceptional educators the most.

I graduated from Michigan State University in 2012 with a degree in elementary education. I am certified to teach K-5 all subjects. During my first two years of teaching, I taught kindergarten. I am currently in my third year of teaching. I now teach first grade. I really enjoy watching them evolve as learners and productive citizens of society.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I have a very supportive family and helpful friends who find time to come and volunteer in my classroom. Sometimes they come as guest readers during reading month, to speak during career day, or to help with special celebrations. In my leisure time, I enjoy scrapbooking, painting, golfing, roller-skating, reading, and traveling. All of my experiences have made me the person I am today and have contributed to my future aspirations.