Carrie Lillibridge

EDU379.602

“Teachers as Leaders for Social Justice”

April 6, 2011

Before going into this presentation, I really was not sure what I expected to hear or discuss with other future teachers. Now that I have listened to your perspective on what it means to be a social justice advocator and the important role that college students/ future teachers have in initiating this essential change, I have become much more aware on my impact on others. Just realizing that when we become teachers we will be recognized out in the community, as leaders and seen as role models, is a very important component of what young teachers need to realize. In order to begin and continue the change that is necessary in order to achieve social justice, those who believe in it must become advocators and take risks in order to have their voice heard by others. Through subtle communication with others, your views can be heard and contemplated by others and they will then share their views with others. This is how numbers can be developed in order to make a larger difference and stand up to those that are denying these changes.

The topic that inspired me the most, during the presentation, was how teachers can design their classroom in ways that are supportive of discussions that may arise among their students. Introducing social justice and multiple perspectives in your classroom is beneficial because it prepares young students to view life in a broader perspective as they become older. If these children are educated and informed about these social justice issues, they will have the numbers and impact needed in order to make changes towards the right direction of social justice. Children need to be exposed to teachers who allow them to have an open mind and to question the things that they see happening around them in order for them to become more knowledgeable about these significant issues. Overall, I enjoyed the presentation and I feel like I learned a lot of valuable information that I will try to apply in my own life. As a future teacher, it is very important to me to be able to educate my students, not only in the content areas, but on how to be an open-minded and compassionate person towards others.