

# PHILOSOPHY of EDUCATION

When you look up philosophy in the dictionary it tells us “philosophy” is the rational investigation of the truths and principles of being, knowledge, or conduct.

## **EDUCATION SHOULD PRODUCE GLOBAL CITIZENS**

In contemplating this concept of educational philosophy, many things come to mind; such principles as, “all can learn”, “high expectations for all” and “unlimited growth potential”. As a goal oriented person, the purpose of education is not to be rigid but all-encompassing. Standardized testing permeates our educational environment yet I believe the broad definition of education should be to produce global citizens who can think, reason and logic their way through an ever-changing world to make it a better place for the next person.

## **KEEP IT SIMPLE**

With the goal or purpose of education defined, I think about trying to achieve that goal. After much reflection, this philosophy of education, or my conduct to achieve the purpose of education, is very similar to my work ethic which is simple; “Work hard, have fun and good things will happen.” The “work hard” component begins by reviewing where we are during any journey. In simplest terms, our team begins to honestly look at what is preventing us from achieving our goals and then formulating a plan to move towards our destination.

## **HAVE A VISION**

Throughout the process the leader needs to be out in front, ensuring the vision is constantly in focus. Many times, the leader is also the one who quantifies the measurable success of a program. This can be difficult, even though the question is simple; “Does this program bring us closer or father away from our destination/goal?” While these choices can be uncomfortable, the satisfaction of seeing our districts and their student’s success is worth it.

## **CELEBRATE SUCCESS**

In West Texas, we don't back down from hard work, we embrace it. And we are not afraid to rejoice and boast about some of the great things that are accomplished. Throughout this cycle more and more people become interested in what is happening in our organization due to the excitement and success achieved. When our success is observed over and over, more people want to be a part of our winning team.

**S. DENISE SHETTER, Ed. D.**