From my participation in the CETL program, I have taken many important features that have improved my teaching and, with my choosing, can continue to enhance the education of my students. One example is awareness and action working together. I have become more aware of how essential it is to use the two together. If I am simply aware of what needs to be changed with my teaching and take no action to improve it, what benefit do my students receive? In turn, if I attempt to improve my teaching with no thoughtful reflection as to what to change, the effort that I made to improve my class is not productive or very useful. Therefore, I choose to be reflective with how I can improve my class and, with that knowledge, I implement the necessary changes in order for my students to most effectively acquire the knowledge they need. In order to do this, after each class I spend five to ten minutes writing notes about how the class when and how successful or not the activities were. I have found this to be very helpful. By the time I teach the same material in future classes, it is difficult to remember the details as to how effective the activities were. Spending such little time after each class improves my teaching and can only help my students’ education.

Some aspects of the CETL program have helped me gain insight into being more aware of how I teach and then to take action to improve my teaching. For example, when I was observed, I was given insightful information as to how to improve my class. One aspect that I was able to change immediately was the set-up of my classroom. Instead of letting the students sit wherever they pleased, I rearranged them closer to make the
environment more conducive to working in groups and developing a close-knit class. Putting them closer together allowed them to use each other as resources much more effectively as well. It gave them the opportunity to have me just as a resource and not as the center of the classroom. They become more in control of their own education simply by sitting in a different order.

In addition, the CETL program has supported and reinforced my belief of the importance of keeping students active and making it their class. I have them work more in groups and develop projects that encourage them to work and problem solve with their fellow classmates. Making the information and projects meaningful to their lives also has increased their interest in the class and the material.

Lastly, I have realized how different each class is, and that each has different needs and interests. Before, I recognized that individuals were different and dealt with each one to ensure his/her education. Making each student realize his/her importance in the class improves the flow of each class and the education of each student. Now, I work not only with each individual I also consider how each class is different and deal with their needs and preferences.