

Teacher as Effective Steward

Like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

Matthew 25:14

At Huntington University, we see teachers acting as *stewards* in four areas:

1

As *Stewards of Knowledge* teachers are responsible to society, the culture at large, and to God to help all students learn skills and concepts from the huge body of current knowledge. Candidates in teacher preparation programs must have a strong knowledge base in three areas: general education/liberal arts, specific content areas (including the knowledge specified by state content area standards), and professional/pedagogical knowledge (including pedagogical knowledge specified in state developmental standards and INTASC Principles). In HU's extensive general studies program, candidates gain a strong introduction to the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Candidates become life-long learners who cherish and respect the value of liberal knowledge and human diversity. The academic disciplines provide candidates with a thorough preparation in their content areas and a focal point around which they can synthesize knowledge acquired in the general studies program. In the area of professional studies, candidates gain theoretical and practical knowledge that enables them to deal effectively with the myriad of tasks, constituencies, diversities, information, and technologies that today's teachers must manage.

2

As *Stewards of Learner Development* teachers have responsibility to parents, students, and the public to guide learners in their intellectual, social, emotional, and moral development. Learner diversity requires broad exposure for teacher candidates to differentiated instruction, multicultural teaching, and knowledge of cultures, gender, economic status, and learning styles. It is important for teachers to teach in ways that maximize each student's potential and minimize influences that limit or distort learning potential. Effective teachers exhibit professional dispositions toward all learners, identify learner strengths and weaknesses, and develop instructional and assessment techniques to support learner progress. They are able to use approaches that strengthen student initiative and self-responsibility. In addition, teachers

3

develop techniques that encourage student interaction, success, and self-worth. Finally, they address and capitalize on classroom diversities such as ethnicity, class, exceptionalities, and learning styles.

As *Stewards of Learning Environments* teachers have a responsibility to administrators, parents, and the community to provide the best possible conditions for student learning. Effective teachers provide an environment conducive to maximum productivity for both learner and teacher. Teachers must use available elements including space, materials, facilities, time and people to insure specific learning tasks are accomplished. In addition, teachers must create an

atmosphere that promotes feelings of safety and encourages productive interaction. This requires teachers to develop and implement structures to provide discipline and promote positive learner behavior. Teachers must also develop and use techniques that focus and hold learner attention and make the most of learner differences. Beyond the classroom, teachers must

establish strong bonds within the school and community. Teachers must be equipped to communicate with various audiences, including parents, peers, and other professionals.

4

As *Stewards of Instruction* teachers have a responsibility to the various academic disciplines to teach them with integrity and thoroughness in the most effective ways possible for *all* learners. Planning, managing, and delivering instruction are obvious ways in which stewardship is manifested in the classroom. Teaching requires effective planning that relates content to the specific needs, abilities, and diversity characteristics of the learners. Effective teachers help learners think critically and comprehend both the nature and application of knowledge. Effective instruction involves efficient management of classroom interactions, learning technologies, and varied assessments of student learning. Through an understanding of research and practice related to instruction, candidates are better able to become effective stewards of instruction.

