**Showcase Assignment Justification**

1. **Assignment Title:** Cultural Basket
2. **TPE:** TPE 1,TPE 2,TPE 6
3. **TPE Elements:**
	1. TPE 1: 7
	2. TPE 2: 2, 3
	3. TPE 6: 2
4. **Justification and Reflection:**

My Cultural Basket Assignment shows my understanding and awareness of elements from TPE 2: Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for All Learners and TPE 6: Developing as a Professional Educator. Reflecting on my own values, biases and beliefs (Affect) that I bring in to the classroom as an educator is important for me to be able to mitigate any that would contribute to practices (behaviors) that would hinder student development and achievement. Utilizing the knowledge (cognitions) I have of my privileges and the educational injustices that face many of my low-income, English language learning students of color, helps me to foster a welcoming and inclusive classroom community that values the backgrounds and cultures of my students and works to address any instances of intolerance and harassment amongst my students (TPE 2:3, TPE 6: 2). It compels me to design curriculum that is responsive to the social and cultural context my students live in and create educational opportunities to foster creative and analytical thinking in my students, intended to help them become the next generation of change makers in the world (TPE 1: 7, TPE 2: 2). I will continue to attend workshops from Teach for America that provide resources about creating culturally responsive classrooms and research different books and lesson plan ideas for how to address instances of intolerance and advocate for social justice in early childhood education classrooms.

This assignment also helped me to reflect more on the “Intra” and “Inter” Inspire Perspectives. What inspires me most as an educator is seeing my students overcome barriers to their education and defy stereotypes about their potential. Hearing my preschool students’ first sentences in English, seeing them write their name for the first time, and express early thoughts about inclusiveness and diversity all bring me so much life and energy and inspire me to keep developing myself as an educator to better teach my students. Reading books with techniques about how to be a culturally competent educator, collaborating with Teach for American staff and alumni, and seeking opportunities to attend workshops throughout the semester all keep me motivated and inspired. Through my continual professional development, I hope to inspire my students and their families to value education and pursue their own rigorous learning goals with motivation and determination. I hope to instill a lifelong desire to learn and lead in my students and create a classroom environment that values risk-taking, creative and analytical thinking, and care and compassion for our peers.