**Showcase Assignment Justification**

1. **Assignment Title:** Philosophy of Education
2. **TPE:** TPE 1, TPE 2
3. **TPE Elements:** 
   1. TPE 1: 1, 3, 5, 7
   2. TPE 2: 1, 2, 5
4. **Justification and Reflection:**

In my Philosophy of Education Assignment for ITL 600, I showed knowledge of and reflection on elements from TPE 1: Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning and 2: Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for All Learners. My synthesis of Essentialism and Progressivism places just as much emphasis on the content taught as it does on connecting that content to students’ prior experiences, social-emotional development, backgrounds, and real-life contexts, with a desire to promote their critical and creative thinking (TPE 1: 1, 3, 5, 7). I seek to develop my students socially and emotionally (Affect) as well as cognitively through my practices (Behaviors) of creating a safe learning community where every student is held to the highest standards, but met with grace and positive interventions when needed (TPE 2: 1, 2, 5). Teaching preschool for the last year and a half has offered me immense training on how to foster students’ social-emotional development and weave their cultural and familial contexts into my lessons. However, I am always seeking to learn new ways to be a “no-nonsense nurturer,” that develops students personally and academically, and will continue to go to Quality Preschool Initiative (QPI) workshops and Teach for America trainings that inform me about practices and behaviors I can utilize in the classroom to enhance student outcomes.

Additionally, my Philosophy of Education Assignment supports my growth regarding the “Intra” and “Inter” Inspire Perspectives. Through blending Essentialism and Progressivism, I seek to inspire my students to think creatively and analytically about the society in which they live, with a mindset geared towards positive societal change and improvement. I hope to equip them with the content knowledge and social-emotional development to be change makers in their world. Seeing students initiate rigorous learning opportunities for themselves that center their personal and community contexts inspires me as an educator to continually improve my teaching practice and behaviors to enhance my students’ learning outcomes and educational ambitions. Staying connected with the Teach for America national community helps me to stay inspired as an educator and learn new ways to inspire my students to be proactive learners and leaders in their communities.