

### **Goals Statement – Third Portfolio**

As I worked on this final portfolio, I knew that I needed to pull together all of my coursework and professional activities as well as develop a plan for a possible dissertation. Because I was able to fully realize the completion of a pilot study during EDRS 812, I have been able to continuously think about a possible dissertation study and have really never stopped thinking about my dissertation since I have returned from Bath.

In this portfolio, I have updated my Research and Professional sections, vita, coursework and artifacts. During this final semester, I am completing my last two courses, one in a regular classroom and one in independent study as was decided during Portfolio 2. I have put an amended program plan to reflect the addition of taking Achievement Gap as an independent study. To help me with some of my dissertation reading, I have added some college readiness materials to the Achievement Gap course and found this reading a valuable addition in broadening my scope of understanding about how advanced academic programs like International Baccalaureate help students become better prepared for college level coursework.

In terms of goals for this portfolio, they are pretty simple. At the end of this semester, I will have completed my doctoral coursework and it is my goal to successfully defend Portfolio 3 and move to proposal. In order to complete my doctoral degree, I will have to write my proposal, defend it, and then complete my doctoral dissertation. It is my goal to complete a qualitative university perception study of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. At the present time, I am thinking that I would like to limit my study to Virginia because of the unique conditions surrounding university recognition legislation in the Commonwealth.

I feel that the experiences, coursework, professional endeavors and networking that I have been able to do throughout my time in the doctoral program have brought me to a point where I am ready to begin the process of researching and writing my doctoral proposal. I am grateful to the professors, researchers, practitioners, and professionals who have opened their doors and their hearts to me and allowed me to enter their world. I have found that often, the research questions I ask are ones that no one previously has asked, and I am thankful that someone is willing to try to help, even if they are not sure that they are leading me in the right direction.