My experience of being an instructor has taught me that the role of a teacher comes with great joy but also with great responsibility to do what enables students to learn. I like to teach to have a part in improving my society and educate a generation that functions knowledgeably in a world where rapid technological advances constantly raise new questions and challenges. Furthermore, I have discovered joy seeing students thrill when they learn something new. As a teacher I must be a life-long learner and teach my students to be the same. I find that the enthusiasm in good teachers is contagious, making the students to become engaged in learning as well.

I believe that in Computer Science, learning takes place when students fully understand how they can apply the learned material to real world applications in a meaningful way. My teaching practices make a class more interesting and engaging by having students realize what they are learning will become important and useful in a real-world context. This is why I try to make them think critically about ideas and connect concepts with everyday examples and encourage them to think outside their conventional boundaries. However, I believe this is not enough. A successful teacher not only needs to motivate the students to learn by exposing them to the relevance of the concepts, but also by motivating them to apply what they have learned. For example in my beginners programming class, I ask students to shape pair groups and implement the concepts that they have learned in class every session. At the end of this course, I saw that for many students, the most powerful lessons were learned in informal discussions, code-debugging during office hours, and pair-coding in class.

My Goals as a teacher are trying to do the best to promote growth by using creativity, and giving the students the freedom to think and discover whatever they want. My teaching goals are met through students gaining a mastery of knowledge while encouraging them to take responsibility for their own learning. Applying this would make the students be both teachers and learners. I evaluate my student’s success by having them peer review each other. For example in my advanced programming class, students would be evaluated based on the comments and reviews they give their classmates on the code they have written. I personally feel that problem based learning allows students to be encouraged to develop communication skills as well as problem solving and critical thinking skills.

In my point of view, there is not only one single perfect method for teachers to teach their classes, but it is up to the teacher to find the ideal method that works best for their class or an individual student. In my classroom I have my students experience hands-on practical applications and I have the opportunity to gain new insight based on individual student needs. This being said, I believe that as a successful teacher I am always learning from my students in the classroom, and making any necessary changes in my teaching methods to fit the class. The path of teaching is the same as the path of learning: they are both an exciting, challenging and continuous process and in the end of the journey, there is always a reward.