

Janet Miller

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is informed by Social Learning Theory and supported by the tenets of learning, leadership, accountability, and diversity. As an educator, I not only model behavior, I join my students in the learning experience. The relationship between teacher and student is reciprocal and symbiotic.

The relationship between student and teacher must be established in an environment of trust and authenticity. If my students feel that I value them as learners and as individuals, if they see the relevance in what I am asking them to learn and do, we have established a relationship that can transport us through learning experiences and processes. I am a role model for learning; my students do what they see me do. When I design and deliver lessons, I base my practice in theories that promote a variety of learning strengths through collaboration, hands-on experience, and rigorous expectations. I encourage students to use critical thinking skills to reflect upon coursework.

My own practice includes the reflective process. I seek to improve my practice often. Constantly, I think about my students as individuals, each with learning strengths and learning needs. I realize that if my students understand that I consider their needs as individuals, and that I work to promote learning through their individual strengths, they may be willing to challenge themselves and build efficacy.

As I reflect upon my thirty plus year career of theatrical work teaching students and professionals of all ages, I realize the most important aspect of my job is promoting self-efficacy. If I can show my students how to recognize patterns, see relationships, and self-motivate, I have equipped them to build their own learning experiences that originate from individual strengths.