Before Simpson, I was doing scientific research at the University of Wisconsin studying hurricanes. While I enjoyed the work, deep down, I really wanted to teach. Through Simpson, I have been able to successfully change careers and get a prestigious job with Des Moines Public Schools my first year out of graduate school.

At Simpson College, I received an award for being an “Outstanding Graduate Student in Secondary Education”. I was able to balance the challenging course load, family commitments, and my job as an adjunct professor. Thus, I am very proud of my achievements in my graduate classes and in my work as a student teacher at Saydel High School.

These achievements have continued in my job at Lincoln High School. As part of the science department, I have developed common formative assessments for our classes and been an active member in working to improve our curriculum. I have had the opportunity to connect with many students and see their growth throughout the course of a school year. While I certainly did not reach all of them, I feel that many students enjoyed my science classes and were challenged by them many times. I hope to continually improve as I develop my skills as an educator.

Simpson College’s Masters of Arts in Teaching Program helped bring to the surface relevant and engaging questions in education. It prepared us for the challenges we would face as teachers and highlighted many of the issues that are constantly being debated in schools today. The practica and student teaching gave me hands-on experience I needed to be successful in the classroom.