ONCE A TEACHER, ALWAYS A STUDENT

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If you thought you’re through “burning the midnight oil” when you received your BSE/BSEED diploma and passed the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET), you are wrong! As the Gen L –Generation’s lingo goes, “Study pa more!”

Truly, at the rate information rush in, new technologies are developed and new discoveries occur that affect daily lives, a teacher cannot to remain ensconced in laxity and comfort zone. He/she will be bypassed by events too fast, that whatever is new today may not be so tomorrow. Hence, a teacher, a mentor, a professor “must be five, six books ahead of her/his classes”. To maintain competence and security in tenure, professionals are required to keep up with the time without necessarily going to school for formal studies.

But first here’s a brief backgrounder of Continuing Professional Development (CPD). This is based on Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Resolution 2013-774, series of 2013, tasked to accredit schools where a professional can have his certificates to seminars, workshops, modules, tours, visits, research and/or lifelong learnings that can be assessed and given weighted points until a total of 15 credit units per year or a total of 45 for three (3) years. What’s more? Professional Regulatory Laws (PRL) require these units to renew their PRC Professional ID. This is a “must” for 44 regulated professions in the Philippines. Where CPD is not mandated in some professions, it is one’s moral obligation to undertake CPD to keep him updated and competent, whether mandatory or not.
A teacher who cannot afford or who has no time to attend schooling to earn credits after receiving diploma, may collect proofs of acquiring lifelong learnings: all learning activities undertaken throughout life resulting to improved knowledge, knowhow, skills, competencies and/or qualifications for personal, social or professional reasons. Such lifelong learnings could be:

1. Formal learning takes place in educational institutions with a curriculum and list of requirements that lead to a diploma

2. Non-formal learnings are learnings that are highly enriching and build capacities but do not lead to diploma or formally-accredited qualifications. An example is attendance to seminar-workshops on selected “new” teaching method like Objective-Based Education (OBE) and appropriate evaluation tools (school tests). Such learnings may be assessed at the end of the workshop, or a few months later after being applied to the workplace.

3. Informal learnings are those which occur in one’s daily life at home, workplace or communities. An outreach to a depressed area, trees planted, small researches or experiential learning are examples.

Submitting to CPD will be very beneficial to teachers aspiring for excellence and promotion. What a way to level up, but it, in itself, is rewarding and makes one so self-confident.

References: