



**BETHEL COLLEGE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
**Conceptual Framework Summary**

**“The Reflective Teacher”**

**Bethel College Mission:** Bethel College is an independent institution of higher education. The mission of the college is to prepare students, through active learning and rigorous instruction imbued with the spirit of liberal arts, to become critical thinkers and engaged global citizens.

**Education Preparation Provider (EPP) Shared Vision:** Our vision is to have a teacher education program embedded with reflection. Students reflect on their content knowledge to be better able to sequence learning, to understand underlying relationships, to prioritize and distill the essence of the content. Students reflect on pedagogical practice, observing, evaluating, comparing, examining results, looking for reasons and consequences. Our vision also includes students developing a better understanding of their own beliefs and philosophies and under the light of reflection becoming teachers who will be caring and respectful of diversity.

**Theme:** The Reflective Teacher

**EPP Mission:** The faculty in the department of teacher education at Bethel College is dedicated to preparing reflective teachers. The education program is designed to develop proficiencies in academic and professional knowledge bases and those dispositions that provide a grounding for reflective thinking, particularly those of caring and respect for diversity. The program is embedded with the belief that reflective thinking is congruent with effective practice.

**EPP Beliefs:** 1) A reflective teacher must be grounded in their content area and pedagogical knowledge. 2) An effective teacher truly cares for students, enjoys the relationships with them, and is dedicated to the learning of all students, respectful of their diverse characteristics. 3) Learning is a dynamic process where knowledge is constructed through the active participation of the learner that is mediated through expert instruction. 4) We believe in instructing candidates in, and with, this methodology.

**EPP Educational Theory and Philosophic Base:** Reflective educators consider true learning to be the active framing of personal meaning by the learner rather than the framing of someone else’s meaning.