

## PDS GRADUATE COMMENTS

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This PDS is almost like a family. I have been with the 14 of you for two years here and many of you when I was in Georgetown. We are the only ones here and we have come to depend on each other. I didn't have this closeness when I was in Newark and I couldn't have made it these last two years without you. And you [instructors] know all about us, the good and the not so good. But I know that you just want to help us and make us be the best teachers that we can be. When I was in Newark I had excellent professors and I did learn a lot. But I only saw them in one class and that is the only place that they knew me. Here, you have been with me every step of the way. You see me as a student and a teacher. I know that I have learned so much because we are such a close knit group. *senior intern, reflection, May 24, 2006*

Please tell all of the juniors and seniors that I said~it is all worth it and that being in this program allowed me to feel very confident about this first year. *2002 graduate*

I want to thank you again (and again and again) for all of the help, support and laughs you have given me these last two years. `It was worth it. Now that I have my own classroom, I see how prepared I am. *2004 graduate*

It really didn't hit me until I took some serious time to reflect (after I caught my beginning of the year breath) just how many tools I have to educate children because of this program. *2005 graduate*

Thank you for everything that you and the PDS program did to prepare me for teaching...everyone says that I seemed like I had been doing it for years. I owe that to you! *2002 graduate*

I'm not like the other new teachers. They are scared. But I have been in the schools for two years. I have seen this all before. *2005 graduate*

A PDS prepares you for being a teacher by letting you experience everything that a teacher does for two years. It was hard work and lots of extra hours. But I can't imagine being ready to teach with anything less. *2004 graduate*

I wasn't sure why I chose a program that required so much for two years. Now that I have my own classroom I know that I made the right decision. *2005 graduate*

Everyone wanting to teach should learn through a PDS. *2003 graduate*

I get to see more than a classroom and teach a few lessons in someone else's classroom. I belong here, I am welcome here, and I get to see it all. I see things that are never mentioned in books. All of these experiences will help me when I am in my own classroom. Nothing will be new because I have been here for two years. *Senior intern reflection 2002*

All of the assignments, lesson plans, and hard work we put in at the PDS are paying off. I never thought that I would say that, but it is true. My new job seems like it's going to be a piece of cake. *2003 graduate*

I know that I complain a lot about writing all of these lesson plans. It is just so much work. But then I talk to my friends who go to Wilmington College and they brag about not having to write any plans at all. I may be envious at first, but then I wonder how they will ever be ready to teach. I get to teach every day and get to teach lots of different lessons. I still hate to write all those plans, but I love to teach them and know that here, I get to teach them. I'm not a student like they are in their program, I'm a teacher here. *senior intern 2005*

I am so proud to say that I have graduated from such an incredible program. *2004 graduate*

I am amazed at how much I know because of the program and its experiences. *2005 graduate*

I only have you guys to thank at the PDS for all that you did for me through my last two years of college. I was so prepared for all of the aspects of the first year teaching. *2003 graduate*

I think about you guys every day...how could I not when your influence still affects so many aspects of my school day. *2003 graduate*

I could not be happier. Everything that we experienced was worth this very day, because I feel like I should not be anywhere else but here. THANK YOU for the past 2 years! :) *2006 graduate*

Just wanted to let you know that I started my first day as a real teacher today! As we were talking about the mentoring program and the up and coming DPAS II, I couldn't believe how comfortable I already felt with it because of the starting the year project we did at the beginning of the year last year. We had some group discussions and I can honestly say I felt very knowledgeable and maybe a bit more experienced with ideas than the other non-PDSers I was working with. I am very excited about this upcoming year. Thank you for everything and for helping me be prepared on my 1st day! *2008 graduate*

I was thinking of the PDS this morning. I have a friend that just graduated from Wilmington University, and I have been helping her apply to schools to prepare for the interview process, etc. She was so thankful and wanted to know when I graduated how I knew what I was doing. I told her we actually had classes on these kinds of procedures, and she could not believe it. I just wanted to express how THANKFUL I was once again to have been part of the PDS. I think sometimes I forget how lucky I was to have such guidance when it came to making such important decisions, even down to the thank you notes you send after interviews and how to create an online portfolio. I realized once again the professionalism of our program and how we truly do shine. *2006 graduate*

No books can replace experience. The books were helpful, but one-to-one contact with students and faculty can't be replaced. *2004 graduate*

The PDS program was the closest opportunity that I could have had to being a real teacher. I was treated by both the students and the mentor teacher as a real teacher. I was also able to handle real student concerns and communicate with parents. It was a fantastic way to prepare!  
*2002 graduate*

During the summer, the PDS ALWAYS got brought up during our courses. Our professors have been impressed with what we experienced when in the PDS. Just wanted to thank you for all you did for us. It has helped us not only in the teaching world, but in the masters degree world as well. *2006 graduate*

The significant amount of time spent in field experiences and internships provided PDS students with an experienced, professional, and instructional edge that enabled us to be highly qualified educators. It is an honor to be a graduate from the program. Each time I have interviewed, faculty, administrators, and community members are considerably impressed with my qualification of the overall nature of the program. Thanks for helping to make us the best!!  
*2003 graduate*