

## Reflection #4

This semester I participated in a few different cooperative projects that were the result of a long-term partnership. I have been working with HeartLands Conservancy for the past 2 years in accordance with the Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars program at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The main takeaway I have from this experience is that there will be ups and downs riddled everywhere along your journey, but the best way to get through them is to lean on your team, as well as the mentors around you.

These interactions will shape my work moving forward because I will continue to work on my time management as well as my communication. I learned that just going along with what is being presented before me doesn't always work out. It is important for me to add my ideas, inputs, critiques, etc., into the space because our work won't improve if only one person is taking the reins for the whole group.

In addition to that, I will always try to go above and beyond with my work. I feel that there were times during this experience where I could have done so much more, accomplished so much more, but I instead played it safe and did the bare minimum or enough to get me a good grade. I acknowledge that I haven't always been in the best condition and have gone through things during these semesters, so it's understandable that I had that perspective of "just get it done." However, I still can't help feeling a bit of regret for those moments that I lost where I could have made something amazing.

Regardless of that, the last lesson I will be using to shape my work is that at the end of the day, there are times where I just have to say "forget it" and continue living my life. I say this because, going back to the beginning of my reflection, "there will be ups and downs riddled everywhere along your journey," I will always hit hurdles in life, so if I continue to stay down

and get pushed out of character with each down, I won't be able to get up to enjoy all the ups.

So, those are the main themes that I will be shaping my work with in the future.