

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music

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MICHAEL DEAN'S STATEMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

1. Focus on Building People. The molding of a student's professional integrity is a primary concern.
2. Require Excellence. Students are challenged to make every effort to do their best to become the best that they are capable of becoming.
3. Emphasize Fundamentals. Important basics of good musicianship (relaxation, tone, rhythm, etc.) are constantly stressed.
4. Highlight Artistry as of Paramount Importance. Technique is emphasized as a means to musical expression, not as an end in itself.
5. Stay Student-Centered. Student understanding and development are foremost concerns.
6. Make Students Think. Logical and creative thinking are emphasized and encouraged. Absolute conformity, or "clone-making," is viewed as an inadequate and undesirable musical goal.
7. Be Reality-Based. Practical concerns are the focus, not esoterica. Teaching should have a view toward the future.
8. Stress Pedagogy. Concepts of effective teaching are emphasized – especially the pedagogy of private lessons.
9. Model Desired Behaviors. Strive to be a good example of the qualities that produce genuine success.

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