In my time as a student, the teachers who had the greatest influence on me were those who were not only passionate about their subject matter, but who also encouraged this same passion in their students. They created classroom environments where the student felt safe, knowing that they were going to be respected and treated fairly. As a result, we the students were able to take risks and push the limits of our learning. While some of these teachers really challenged me and my thinking, they did so in a relaxed manner such that I did not feel under stress or pressured at all. Instead, I enjoyed learning. This is the type of teacher I strive to be.

My teaching philosophy begins with my firm belief that all students are capable of learning. If they are not learning the way I am teaching, then I need to adjust and teach the way they learn. Each student is unique and what works for one will not necessarily work for all. In fact, it is very unlikely that any one instructional practice or technique will work for all students. That is why I choose to approach teaching with a student-centered style. The climate is a mixture of performing and supportive.   I demonstrate, I guide, and facilitate, and I allow my students to show me what they need from me to help them succeed with a given topic. Of course, my students would not feel comfortable with this teaching style if they did not trust me, so, I make sure to begin each class on a positive note and I maintain a relaxed, yet still professional, atmosphere in my classroom at all times. Building rapport with my students demonstrates to them that I do truly care about their success, and as a result, they are not only willing, but also even eager to put forth their best effort for me. Perhaps even more importantly, though, they feel able to approach me when they encounter difficulties with their assigned work.

As a teacher, I feel it is my responsibility to prepare my students for the workplace, and this too is a part of my teaching philosophy. The IT industry is always evolving and changing, and it is full of challenges. Never could one individual have all the answers, and my students need to understand this. They need to be both willing and able to seek answers to the questions they have and to solve the puzzles that confront them. Therefore, as their teacher, I never shy away from admitting that I do not know everything. I am honest with my students when they pose a question that stumps me, and we work at finding the answer(s) collaboratively. This is important in my classroom as it will be part of an essential skill set for them in the workplace. I hope to foster innovative thinking, problem solving, creativity, and collaboration in my students.

Also central to my philosophy of teaching is my desire to help make the industry that I love even better by developing capable new professionals, ready to take it by storm. In this way, I am transforming lives and communities as we are all impacted by technology on a daily basis. The skills and competencies I nurture in my students have the potential to lead to amazing innovations in the IT industry, innovations that could quite literally be on a global scale.

In teaching, not only do I get to share my passion for IT with others, but also I am rewarded each day by seeing students succeed with my guidance and support. I cannot imagine a more exciting or fulfilling career.