In 2007 during my last year earning my undergrad degree in Social Services at King Saud University, my goals started to be clear for myself. I decided to continue my education outside the country in the educational field. I made this decision since I believed traveling outside my country and living in the United States would benefit me in my personal and academic life. In 2008 after I graduated with a bachelor degree, I received a full scholarship from the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education due to my excellent grades in college.

I decided to pursue my study in the field of Educational Technology after reading about the field and seeing that it would not only benefit me as an individual but also the community to which I could offer my assistance. I believe that receiving a master’s degree in Educational Technology will benefit me in day-to-day interaction with family, friends and colleagues. Continuing my education in Educational Technology will help me to become one of a few Saudi people who have this degree. This area of study would allow me to contribute to filling the professional gap in Saudi universities. In addition, I believe that technology is the future. However, believing would not be enough. Therefore, through studying for a master degree in Educational Technology, I expected to understand the meaning of technology in the education, how I can use the technology effectively, what kind of technology I should apply in the classroom, how much technology should be applied, and when the technology should be applied. Those were my academic goals.

In my personal perspective, I believe traveling outside my country and getting away from my family, my friends, my culture, my traditional, and my whole life will help me to be more independent and to refine my personality. In addition, being alone in another country that is completely different than mine will make me able to face all the difficulties by myself and will make me a stronger person.
My Educational Goals and Expectation before and after
Naelah Almuqwishi

After living in the United States for more than three years and receiving a master degree in Educational Technology I feel like a whole new person—one who is full of confidence, knowledge, and experience. In an academic perspective, I gained variety of amazing new information, skills, experiences, ideas, and methods in the field of educational technology that I will apply in my future.

After studying a master degree in educational technology I became really addicted to the educational field and I got a desire to learn more and gain more and more knowledge in the perspective of the American education. In addition, I set up a goal for me to continue my education in the field of educational leadership, which would allow me to contribute to my country by filling the professional gap in Saudi universities with the expertise I hope to achieve in the Ed.D program at the University of Hartford. In addition, pursuing a graduate degree in Education Leadership will help me to focus on an important issue—as a citizen of Saudi Arabia, I feel that I have a responsibility to change my country for the better. Earning a doctorate in the field of education is one way I can accomplish this. As a professor, I intend to return to Saudi Arabia and become a positive force in changing my country’s educational system so that it is more like that of the schools and universities in the United States. I hope to establish the idea of higher order thinking, creativity, writing skills, and technology skills.

We need to get away from an out-dated curriculum. I believe Saudi Arabia needs to concentrate on teaching its students more science, math, literature, and history and to foster creative, problem-solving, analytical minds that will serve our country in the future. We need to introduce and teach the new technologies of the 21st century. These are my long-term goals and the objective of earning a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership, which will give me the credentials to create an educational experience that promotes real learning that can lead to a better Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is a wonderful country; we just need well-educated people to make it a country that can adapt to the demands of a globalized 21st century.