

Keeping Connected

How to Create Community in Online Learning

by Matt Zalanick

Creating continuity and a campus-like community in the virtual world should be the first step faculty take when shifting their students to online learning during closures. That starts with polling students about their learning preferences and any lifestyle or technological challenges they face in connecting with their instructors, says [Jenna Sheffield](#), an assistant provost for curriculum innovation at the University of New Haven. A key [online learning](#) question is to ask students whether they prefer live (or, synchronous) instruction, or recorded (asynchronous) instruction. Faculty can also solicit students' ideas for revamping assignments for the virtual world, Sheffield says. To read the full article and learn practical tips, click [HERE](#).



How to Get Students to Actually Participate in Virtual Meetings

In this brief Harvard Business Education article, Hale and Grenny unpack the nuances and frustrations that exist for actively engaging others in virtual meetings. They've spent the last few years studying virtual training sessions to understand why

most virtual gatherings bore groups into a coma. As they've done so, they've discovered and tested five rules that lead to predictably better meeting outcomes. In [one study](#), they compared 200 attendees of a face-to-face experience with 200 of a virtual experience, and found that when these rules are applied, 86% of participants report as high or higher levels of engagement as in face-to-face meetings. And they've now applied these rules with over 15,000 meeting participants. To learn about the specific principles that work, and to how create better engagement and participation in your own virtual meetings, click the article [HERE](#).



Supporting Students Well-Being (and Your Own)

FCI will be hosting "Faculty Dialogues" every other Tuesday (10:00-11:00am CST) to exchange practical strategies and tips to impact our practice and to connect. The next session will occur on Tuesday, April 7th (10:00-11:00am CST) and will focus on specific approaches and methods to support student resilience (and ways to continue building your own resilience). Join us as your colleagues share creative ways that faculty across the disciplines are currently supporting their learners (particularly in nursing, social work, and education programs that require practicum experiences). This session will also explore ways to help instructors build resilience during this time as well. We hope to see you there!

Topic: Supporting Students Well-Being (and Your Own)

Presenter: FCI

Date & Time: Apr. 7th (10:00-11:00am, CST)

Zoom Link: <https://park.zoom.us/j/430243075>



Free Conference and Webinar Development Opportunities

For those unable to attend professional conferences, or perhaps those simply wanting to improve your practice and get exposed to new ideas, we'd like to share the following development opportunities that are on the horizon. Register now for these absolutely free webinars hosted by the Association of College and University Educators!

Webinar Registration and Resources

- **Welcoming Students to Your Online Environment**, Thursday, April 2, 2020, 2:00pm ET, ([register here](#))
- **Managing Your Online Presence**, Monday, April 6, 2020, 2:00pm ET
- **Organizing Your Online Courses**, Thursday, April 9, 2020, 2:00pm ET
- **Planning and Facilitating Quality Discussions**, Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 2:00pm ET
- **Recording Effective Microlectures**, Friday, April 17, 2020, 2:00pm ET
- **Engaging Students in Readings and Microlectures**, Monday, April 20, 2020, 2:00pm ET

Share Your Story for Thriving

We know that many of you already have stories of exceptional student resilience, stories of new strategies you've implored that could help other instructors, and stories of great teaching & learning during times of change. We kindly invite you to share those stories with us and the Park community [HERE](#). All submissions will be

entered in a raffle to receive a gift at the end of the semester, and your story may be featured in the next issue!



Virtual Coffee House

Feeling isolated? Miss connecting with your colleagues? Or just want to talk to someone other than your dog? All faculty are welcome to join us **every Friday through the end of the semester from 11:30-12:00pm CST** for an informal social gathering. Topics of discussion in our breakout chat rooms will vary each week and will develop based upon your interests. Bring your own beverage of choice and join us for some brief social exchange. To join, click [HERE](#). Hope to see you there!



Just for Fun: Advice from the Dog on How to Handle COVID19

For those who might need a good laugh this video is for you! A "talking" dog has become a pandemic hero since the canine made her [first appearance on Facebook](#) last week. The wiry 13-year-old Schnauzer is very funny. Pluto and her human, Nancie Wight, have been churning out viral videos with advice. Check out Pluto, the dog, and her excellent (and humorous) advice to humans from the four-legged friends out there.



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