

Keeping Connected

Strategies to Promote Connection & Student Engagement

Are you looking for ways to keep your students engaged in the course and better connected with you and one another, then please join our "Faculty Dialogues" session next Tuesday (April 28th) from 10:00-11:00am CST on ***Strategies to Promote Connection & Student Engagement***. We will host David Grover to share about online tool integration (such as Slack, Marco Polo, and other applications), while also hosting Faith Kindel to share her expertise on creating engaging online activities. Their brief presentations will be followed by 30 minutes of open dialogue, conversations, questions, and exchange for the audience. We hope to see you then!

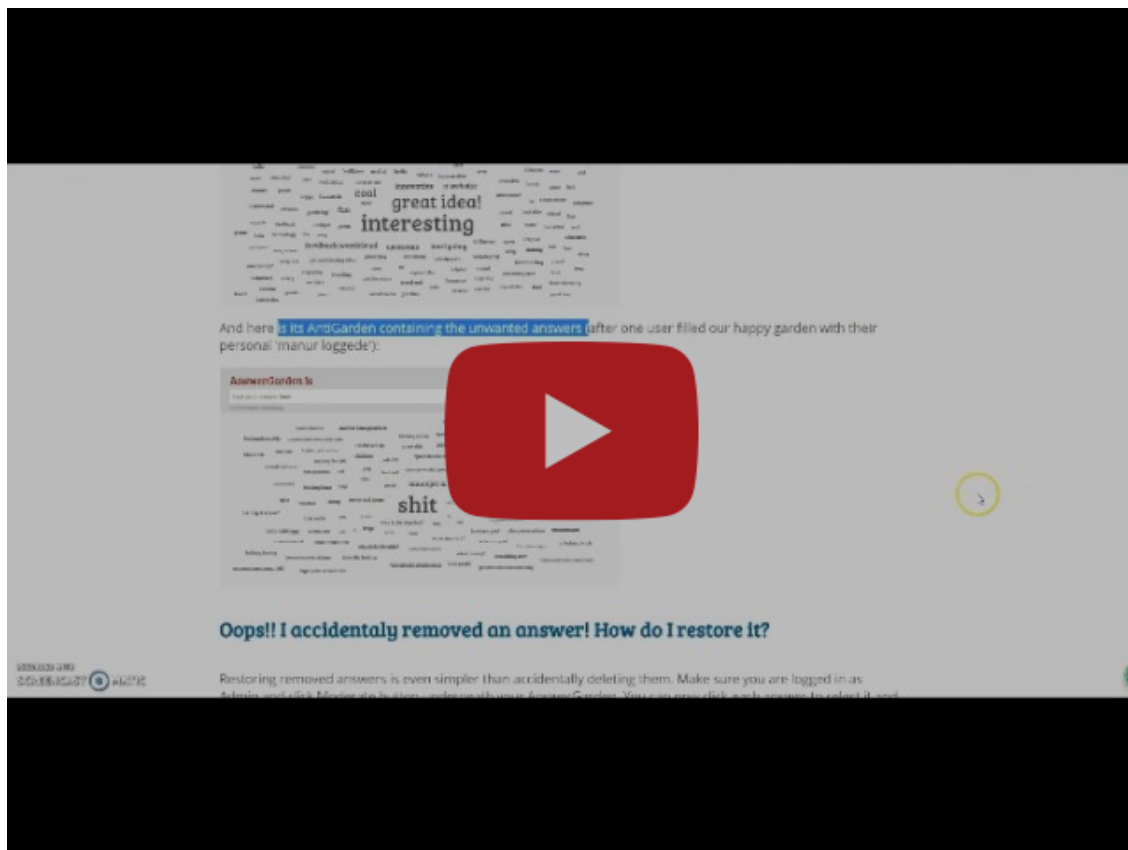
Join via this [**ZOOM LINK**](#)



Thriving in Uncertain Times: Faculty Stories of Engagement

This week, Eugene Matthews explores how he incorporated the **Answer Garden (word cloud)** shared by Melanie Kinney and Lauren Lovvorn during the KCPDC training a few weeks ago. Dr. Matthews says, *"I think since the goal is to emulate as well as possible, what we would have done in the F2F format,*

tools like this are a good low-stakes way to connect, reconnect, and stay connected with students. Like my colleagues, I don't want to overwhelm my students with tech, so I'm taking an intentional approach and 'test-driving' what worked for someone else to see if it might work for me". He integrated this activity into his Canvas course and said that it was very well received by his students. To learn more about how you can integrate word clouds using Answer Garden, watch the video tutorial below. Additionally, if you have tips, ideas, or stories for thriving, we kindly invite you to share those 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!



10 Ways to Overcome Barriers to Student Engagement Online

by Ali Briggs

Online learning presents new challenges when compared to a traditional classroom because students are separated from their instructor by a computer screen. How can we engage our students in the content, learning activities, and assessments? How can we prevent feelings of frustration or isolation and keep them motivated? These questions are frequently asked by online instructors looking to maintain the same levels of engagement they see and feel in their

face-to-face classrooms. To help address these questions in your own practice, check out [this ARTICLE](#) to learn more.



Free Live Session on Mindfulness & Social & Emotional Learning in Service of Belonging

As educators across the globe face a variety of challenges at this time, you have an opportunity to connect with someone found to be one of the most powerful and inspiring voices in the mindful education community, **Meena Srinivasan**. This coming **Thursday, April 23**, you can join a LIVE Call with Meena, during which she'll offer a deep dive into how to cultivate **Mindfulness & SEL in Service of Belonging** especially during VUCA times (volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous). This session is FREE for the Awake Network community, and it will be happening at 12pm PT | 1pm MT | 2pm CT | 3pm ET (replay available). [Click here to reserve your spot](#)



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: Using Fun to Promote Engagement

As we look for strategies to more meaningfully engage our learners, let's not forget the joy of learning, with a focus on fun as well. Studies show that applying the "Fun Theory" can change people's behaviors (in other words, if

you make it fun to do, people will engage). Check out these videos of the "Fun Theory" applied and consider what ways you might be able to incorporate fun into your teaching/learning process to engage your students and change behaviors.



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