Teach Together Minnesota!

Strategies to Improve Instructor-to-Student Interaction in the Online Classroom

Presented by:
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(Minnesota State colleges and universities)

Recording link (42 minutes)
Panelists – Where are you today?

Melody Hoffmann, Anoka-Ramsey Community College

Missy Lott, North Hennepin Community College

Linda O’Malley, Metropolitan State University

Moderator: Karen Wenz, D2L System Administrator, Minnesota State system office

Moderator: Suzanne Schlangen, D2L System Administrator, Minnesota State system office
BUILDING SKILLS IN ONLINE COURSES (D2L BRIGHTSPACE)
Minnesota State Initiative: D2L Brightspace Series

• Partnership to offer a **D2L Brightspace Awareness and Skill Building Series**
  ✓ IT Learning Technologies & ASA Educational Innovations
  ✓ Initiative from fall 2019 *(and onward)*

• Opportunities for faculty and staff to enhance their skills in utilizing D2L Brightspace for:
  ✓ Improved **Instructor-to-Student** Interaction
  ✓ Skills to Manage Course Dates to Improve **Student Engagement**
  ✓ Improved **Student-to-Content** Interaction
Two-Pronged Approach

Awareness (Webinars)  
Skill Building (Courses)
Short Course Design

Improving Instructor-to-Student Interaction

• Learn what it’s like to a learner
• 3 weeks, 1 concept per week
• Meaningful, practical assignments
  – Learn best practices
  – Discuss with peers
  – Choose from options, or create your own *(based on specific teaching/learning challenges)*
  – Opportunities to learn more
• Implement the concept that we’re teaching within the course
Short Course Feedback

Topic Feedback:

- **Intelligent Agents**: “I had never heard of IA” and “I am excited [to use it].”
- **Private Discussions**: “It was so simple to use!” and “An easy process.”
- **Personalized Announcements**: “It’s a time saver to communicate with students!”

Course overall:

- “I wish I would have taken this course sooner.”
- “This was a great class!” and “I look forward to other opportunities.”
- “Everything was easy to find and understand. The exercises were relevant. Absolutely fantastic!”
Panelist Reflections
Personalized Announcements

• Consistent communication
  – Welcoming individuals to the class
  – Reviews and previews of the week or module
  – General comments on class performance on a test or assignment

• Reflections
  – Students anticipate announcements on day or time
  – “Replace strings” legal first name vs. preferred name
  – Quick links to course materials for navigation
Intelligent Agents

• Pre-designed emails with(out) conditional release
  – Save time with “just-in-time” emails
  – Encourage student to complete learning activities
  – Recognize the student’s achievement in the course

• Reflections
  – Proactive vs. Reactive uses
  – Email to reach students
  – Complement to other communication tools
Private Discussions

• 1-on-1 threaded discussion with each student
  – Online “office hours”
  – Threaded conversation within the course
  – Student journaling assignments

• Reflections
  – Feedback from students
  – Student participation
  – Supplement or complement to email
Discussion Time

Questions are the path to learning
Learn More with Knowledge Articles

• Knowledge Articles (KAs) are available at the Minnesota State D2L Support site at https://mns cu.sharepoint.com/sites/d2lsupport

• If you are asked to sign in, use YourStarID@minnstate.edu as username and your StarID password
  – KAs 1567 and 869 Private Discussions
  – KAs 1280 and 1400 Personalized Announcements
  – KAs 949 and 1400 Intelligent Agents
Minnesota State D2L Support site

- Available to Minnesota State students, faculty, and staff
- Review best practices and how-to guides
- Access, bookmark, and download articles to learn more and share with others!

If prompted to login, view the [how to login instructions PDF](#).
Faculty Resources | ASA Newsletter

Minnesota State Academic Continuity resources are available at the [ASA Newsletter](#).

- **NED (Network for Education Development)**  
  - [Event Calendar](#): Register for upcoming [webinars](#), short courses, and more!  
  - [Event Resources](#): Access resources (recordings and slide decks) from previous events

- **COVID-19 Resources**: Faculty and Student resources
How to Reach Us

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