HIGH-TOUCH ENGAGEMENT WITH STUDENTS

Kona Jones
Director, Online Learning and Instructor of Statistics
Richland Community College
Email: kona@richland.edu
Twitter: @KonaRJones

Kim Travers
Distinguished Professor, Industrial Technology
Heartland Community College
Email: Kim.Travers@heartland.edu
The key to a great online course is YOU!
“Single most important strategy we can use to help our students to succeed in our courses is to care about them as learners and as human beings” (p. 129)
How can **YOU** connect with students and foster their **spark for learning**?
Develop an engagement plan for connecting & communicating with students
INSTRUCTOR
PRESENCE
Social Presence

Q1: How do you make your students feel welcomed?

Q2: How do you create and maintain a sense of trust and safety?
Strong **social presence** creates an environment of trust and that it’s ok to take risks.
Q3: What activities or assignments do you have that are meaningful to the students and get them engaged?

Q4: What opportunities do you provide for students to think and reflect on what they’ve learned?
Cognitive presence encourages students to explore ideas, thoughts, and beliefs, and to meaningfully connect with the content.
Q5: How is your course designed to promote learning?

Q6: How are you present in your course?

Q7: How do you connect with your students?
Teaching presence is displayed in everything the instructor does to guide, support, and shape the learner’s experiences.
BEFORE
CLASS STARTS
Tools & Resources

- Video
- Audio
- Rubrics
- Announcements
- Email
- Discussions

- Message students
- Chat
- Video conference
- Text
- Phone call
- Office hours
Personalize AND create...videos and materials!
“I like that you create your own video. It’s like you actually teach the course.”
Anticipate a mindset shift as you move to online teaching.
Syllabus

Expectations for Students

- Student presence
- Timely communication
- Timely submission of assignments
- Read and respond to feedback
- Treat everyone with civility & respect

Expectations for Instructor

- Instructor presence
- Timely communication
- Timely grading
- Quality feedback
- Environment of civility & respect
Set clear expectations and be consistent in the format and delivery of the course!

CONCISE

CONSISTENT

CLEAR
Post clear communication guidelines for your class!
Create a student inventory to find out who your students are!
Student Inventory Questions

- What is your preferred name? Preferred pronouns?
- What might keep you from being successful in this course?
- What kind of computer will you be using for this class?
- Do you have internet? How good is your connection?
- Do you have access to be able to print?
- Do you work? How many hours?
- Do you have family commitments that might compete with the time needed to succeed in this course? Explain.
Welcome E-Mail

- Initial welcome
- Required materials/technology
- What is the class going to be like?
- Important reminders
DURING

THE SEMESTER
First Week

- Course welcome/goals
- Course walkthrough
- Send out weekly emails or post announcements
- Find out who your students are (consider a Student Inventory)
- Welcome discussion
“After reading the initial course materials my attitude towards this course has changed. This has provided me insight and confidence, which I lacked, going into this course.”
Throughout Semester

- Participate in discussions
- Provide substantive feedback on assignments and assessments
- Remind students of due dates
- Monitor and reach out to students who have not logged in

Monitor AND contact students who are not doing well and/or are not participating!
Promote student-student interaction, as well as instructor-student interaction!
Encourage questions!
Be visibly “present” in your course!
Remind students of due dates and other activities!
Communicate with students who are NOT doing well.
Communicate with students who are doing great!
Feedback, feedback, feedback!

“I enjoy the feedback/replies from you. It makes me feel as though you’re invested and not just here.”
be kind to yourself.
How can YOU connect with students and foster their spark for learning?
Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

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