Inside Teaching Lounge
#teachlounge

Building Classroom Community
9/11/15
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Classroom Community

- Physical: Gathering of Individuals
- Intellectual: Gathering of disciplinary commitments and shared purposes
- Cultural: Many different cultures/backgrounds converging in one space
- Emotional: “Sense of belonging or personal relatedness. . .shared and emotional sense of connection” (Osterman, 2000, p. 324)
- Involves connections and relationships between instructor, students, and disciplines
- Built across a course (needs maintenance)
Why Build Community?

- Helps with relationships and engagement and aligns across many dimensions of NSSE’s Benchmarks of Effective Ed. Practice (2014):
  - Active/Collaborative Learning,
  - Student-Faculty Interaction,
  - Supportive Campus Environment,
  - Enriching Ed. Experiences
How Do You Get There?

- Clear Expectations/Communication
- Knowing your Students
- Assessment and Activities for Community
Clear Goals and Communication

- Do students understand the goals/expectations for your course?
- How do you know?
- If they didn’t, have you provided them with guidance about what to do?
- Are there ways they can be a part of setting some of these goals/expectations?
- (Discussion of Goals, Syllabus Scavenger Hunt, Social Contract, Marking up syllabus, Regularly anchoring activities/assessments back to goals.)
- How have you gone about making your goals, expectations, and communication for your course clear? How have students been a part of this?
Knowing Students

• How well do you know students (inside/outside class)?

• How well would you say your students know you?

• How well would your students say they know each other (inside/outside class)?

• (Names, 3X5’s Intro Info, Sharing of Artifacts, Varied Groupings (Embodied and Digital), Find Somebody Who, Poll Everywhere, Google Forms, Photopeach)

• What are you doing now and planning for the future to help better know your students and helping them to know each other in connection to the course?
Activities/Assessment for Community

- How do your activities/assessment practices help to build the community you hope for?
- How do your activities/assessment practices help to create consistent opportunities for a feedback loop with your students?
- Do your students clearly recognize you responding to their feedback?
- (Group work (embodied and digital through Google Drive and Popplet), Social Media (esp. Facebook Groups and Twitter Chats), Team Webs and Mind Mapping, 4 Corners, Brain Breaks, students assessing one another, feedback directed towards student response)
- How are your activities and assessments helping to build community?
Thanks for coming!

For information on further Inside Teaching Lounge Programs stay connected: Follow us on Twitter at @InsideTeaching or like us on Facebook at facebook.com/insideteachingmsu

Or email

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