



Growing Online Learning Conference

Creating Meaningful Interactions in the Online Classroom

February 7 – 9, 2023

FREE web-based conference for Illinois community colleges.

February 7, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Education 4.0 and Today's Learners: Supporting Our Online Learners for the Long Haul

Melanie Booth, Ed.D., NC-SARA

In 2022, the World Economic Forum called for Education 4.0, a reimagining of education as “an inclusive, lifelong experience that places the responsibility for skill-building on the learner, with teachers and mentors acting as facilitators and enablers.” How might we best engage today’s online learners – “regularly and substantively” – to address the knowledge, skills, and abilities called for by Education 4.0? What interactions in the online classroom, specifically, are most impactful given this context? This keynote presentation will share some frameworks and perspectives about Education 4.0, today’s learners’ mindsets, and heutagogy, the practice of facilitating and enabling learning.



February 7, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Regular and Substantive Interaction: A Self-Checklist for Faculty

Robin Fisch, Sauk Valley Community College

Sauk Valley Community College developed a self-checklist for faculty to utilize in evaluating their compliance with the DOE's five standards. Learn how the checklist was developed and how it is being used at SVCC.

February 8, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Demystifying Micro-credentials, Digital Badges, Alternate Credentials and all that Stuff

Dr. Luke Dowden & Amber O'Casey, Alamo Colleges District

Subject matter experts in the strategy, planning, and implementing micro-credential initiatives will present their success and challenges working with faculty, staff, and external partners. Participants in this session can expect to learn about the work of the Alamo Colleges District Skills Lab. The Skills Lab works with five Hispanic Serving Institutions and one HBCU to expand the capacity of each College to offer micro-credentials representing in-demand skills.



February 8, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Championing RSI for Online Success: How A Regulatory Requirement Can Be a Celebratory Achievement for Faculty Development & Student Learning

Dr. Kari Proft, Scott Rial & Meredith Tumilty, College of Lake County

Discover how one institution's innovative leadership initiative turned a regulatory requirement into a reason to celebrate. By leveraging faculty champions across academic disciplines to address the updated Department of Education's guidance surrounding regular and substantive interaction (RSI), a one-of-a-kind resource was customized to support online success and drive change. In this informative session, discover the steps you can take at your home institution to address the DoE requirements around RSI, develop and lead a strategic, forward-thinking action plan, advocate for faculty professional development, create an environment that fosters collaboration between administration and instructors, and promote online student success.

February 9, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Tangible Takeaways: A Practical Discussion on Quantifying the Feedback Flow

Michelle Stephens, Richland Community College

During this session, Michelle Stephens, Professor of Communication and Theatre at Richland Community College will discuss navigating the evolving landscape of online education is exciting but it is also challenging. The shifting sands of technological advancement have affected not just what we teach, but how we teach. This talk will explore the challenges of creating quantitatively measurable interactions without dehumanizing their deeply qualitative roots. It will provide tangible examples that faculty can incorporate into their courses as well as some techniques they can leverage in quizzes, assignment feedback, and correspondence to maximize those interactions.

February 9, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Engaging Students: A Conversation with Dr. Alison Lacny

Lisa Dyrda, Moraine Valley Community College

During this interactive discussion, Dr. Alison Lacny, Professor of Moraine Valley Community College, will share her personal stories, strategies for creating healthy and interactive relationships which students and help them to succeed.



Dr. Alison Lacny &

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