



# USING VIRTUAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES TO ENGAGE AND TEACH STUDENTS

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**TRANSITIONS ACADEMY**  
Illinois Community College Board  
Career and Technical Education and Adult Education and Literacy

# Why to consider Virtual Learning Communities



CONNECT  
WITH  
STUDENTS



EMBRACE  
TECHNOLOGY



ENHANCE  
LEARNING



PROMOTE  
WORKSKILLS

# What is going on out there?

- What have you tried?
- What have you considered trying but haven't started?
- What is holding you back?
- Now is the time to get started!

# Where to start...

- **Select a platform** that works for you and your students – explore what is available to you at your institution
- **Identify what you want the Learning Community to Achieve.**
  - Is it designed as a be a place for coordination?
  - Do you want members to collaborate?
  - What levels of communication do you want to achieve?
- How often do you want to meet?





## Selected your Tech... Tech Idea

Go To Meeting

Zoom Meeting

Microsoft Teams

Google Classroom/Google  
Meets

Blue Jeans

Blackboard

# How to get started...



- Educate your team on what a Learning Community really means.
- Start with learning.
- Embrace a collaborative culture built on trust.
- Decide together how things should run.
- Set SMART goals.
- Ask for help.
- Know that these things take time.



# QUESTIONS TO ASK.

What are the goals of establishing a Learning Community?

# What is the purpose of your learning community?



Is it simply a place for students to connect, discuss and mentor?



Do you want private conversations to be possible?



Do you want to share documents?



# How often will your Learning Community meet?



- Bi-weekly – the first and third Thursday of each month everyone will attend. Structured, coordinated and directed by Program Administrators.
- Open ended – anyone anytime can post a question. Flowing conversation and engagement.
- A bit of both...

# Tips for a Successful Learning Community

1. Know Your Online Learners' Needs
2. Set Some Netiquette Rules And Enforce Them
3. Pick The Right Online Collaboration Platform
4. Cultivate A Personal Connection
5. Set Expectations for Participation
6. Appoint Online Learning Community Leaders
7. Create A Central Hub
8. Offer Shareable eLearning Content To Expand Your Online Learning Community
9. Develop Sub-Communities

Some information from:  
<https://elearningindustry.com/tips-build-online-learning-community>

# Brainstorm Ideas

Speakers

Enrichment – what else do you want to include in classes but don't have time

Study groups

Peer to peer tutoring

More ideas

More ideas

More ideas

# Discussion Questions.

- How many of you have implemented Learning Communities?
- What barriers have you encountered?
- What successes have you experienced?
- What will you do differently now?

# Thank you for your interest!



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