FOSTERING SOCIAL PRESENCE & COMMUNITY IN THE ONLINE CLASSROOM

Presenter: Carolyn Raynor, Ph.D.
AGENDA

- Introductions
- What is Presence?
- What is Community?
- What is Social Presence?
- Instructional strategies that foster Social Presence
PARTICIPANT INTRODUCTIONS

Please use the chat box to tell us:

- Your name
- What college or department are you from?
- What interested you in today’s topic?
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do you foster Social Presence in an online classroom?
THREE PRESENCES THAT FORM COMMUNITY

1. Social Presence
2. Teaching Presence
3. Cognitive Presence

Community + Presence fosters both interaction and engagement

Experience: Being present with learners in an online course to:

- Direct
- Guide
- Listen to, and
- Share experiences, expertise, and personal insights
Experience: Living alongside students in a classroom

Concept: Developing a community of learners

Idea: Interaction alone does not develop engaged students (Garrison, 2017)
SOCIAL PRESENCE

- **Affective Communication**
  - Expressing emotion, humor, emojis (with textual discourse).

- **Open Communication**
  - Communication that is reciprocal and respectful. Requires a climate of trust and acceptance allowing questioning while protecting self-esteem and acceptance.

- **Group Cohesion**
  - Addressing others by name; utilizing inclusive pronouns. Cohesion helps sustain the commitment and focus of a CoI.
INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES THAT FOSTER SOCIAL PRESENCE

The following strategies foster social presence
Tip #1:
During Zoom meetings, have students turn on their cameras.
Tip #2:
Assign a variety of assignments that promote student cooperation.
Tip #3:

Divide learners into small groups to engage in collaborative work and discourse.
Tip #4:

Students should feel that their point of view is acknowledged by other course participants.
Tip #5:

Use the first week of class for students to get to know one another and to create an atmosphere where students feel welcome.
Tip #6:

Provide a discussion forum where students are able to interact with one another in a respectful, non-academic environment, like a Student Social Lounge.
FOUR CORNERS

Choose one image out of the four that best represents social presence.
Questions?
Thank You