Using Technology to Reach and Retain Students--Early--In an Online Class

Ida M. Jones
Professor of Business Law
Craig School of Business
California State University, Fresno
idadj@mail.fresnostate.edu


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California State University, Fresno

image from: http://www.fresnostatenews.com/2012/05/25/campus-closed-monday-for-memorial-day/
What We Will Explore Today (Takeaways)

In Online Courses

✓ More strategies to encourage engagement, retention and success
✓ Some technologies to help promote engagement
✓ Sample documents and assignments

Theme

“Touch every student individually” at least once during the first two-three weeks

High Touch Strategies!

One course

- Business law-required course for business majors
- 4-units at Fresno State; 3 units at many other colleges
- This is the required 1-unit course for those who took the course at one of the “other” colleges
  - Taught 1X year, only online
  - Taught as an 8-week course

Takeaway 1

More strategies to encourage engagement, retention and success in online courses

Takeaway 1A

Use Announcements Effectively:
- Public acknowledgement of contribution
- Friendly competition among groups

High Touch Strategies!

Takeaway 1B

Use Posts in Class FAQ (or similar) Forum

High Touch Strategies!

Takeaway 1C

Use Learning Communities-Groups

• Respond to group posts
• Comment or send emails to individual group members on their posts within the group

Takeaway 2 - Technology Can Help

Some technologies to help promote engagement

Other Technology Tools?

- Nearpod
- Poll Everywhere
- Socrative
- Top Hat

To post a response go to

- Discussion page on Presentation site (http://bit.ly/2j1ahMJ) or
- Padlet (https://padlet.com/idaj1/rhdgx4mlqzjy)
Takeaway 3-Samples to Get Started

Sample documents and assignments modifiable for different course

Data Analysis

Student Perceptions and Grade Distribution

Overall, the instructor acknowledged student participation in the course.

- Strongly Agree: 43%
- Agree: 35%
- Neither Agree nor Disagree: 22%
BA88 Grade Distribution 2002-2017

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What’s Next?

• Create a schedule and draft of e-mails for the first three weeks of the semester
• Discuss how you can use certain technologies for student engagement, retention and success

Thank you!

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