participate.

3 WAYS TO ENGAGE *LIFELONG* LEARNERS

TWO INDISPUTABLE FACTS:

1 Today's world runs on knowledge.

2 We are living in a new era of learning.

BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? →

Today, faculty and administrators leading lifelong learning programs and mission-driven centers across higher education are increasingly implementing a social learning approach through digital communities of practice to:

- better engage lifelong learners
- promote collaboration
- boost productivity
- certify achievements

WHY?

WHY?

Because learning is a social activity and a community of practice may be the key to engaging your lifelong learners.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE?

A community of practice is a group of people who have a shared learning interest and create formal and informal ways to engage with one another — to learn and positively impact their own "practice," or work.

Members within a community typically work toward a common goal and share ideas, resources, best practices and tools.

ARE YOU READY TO SUPERCHARGE COLLABORATION AND LEARNING?

HERE ARE 3 WAYS TO BETTER ENGAGE YOUR LIFELONG LEARNERS.

1 Design with the end in mind.

2 Make it easy.

3 Empower through recognition.

SEE EXAMPLES & EXPLANATIONS →

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DESIGN WITH THE END IN MIND.

1) DESIGN WITH THE END IN MIND.

First and foremost, your community of practice should be tied to a common "domain," purpose or goal to inspire learners to get involved!

From there, we recommend following a backward design when developing your learning engagement strategy. Backward design encourages you to consider the impact on practice before and after, not just during, an event or experience.

From there, identify the evidence of learning and engagement.

Finally, plan the activities and experiences and resources that will lead to achieving the desired results and will spark community members to take action!

UNC GREENSBORO COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE BENEFITS LEARNER AND UNIVERSITY GOALS.

The Center for Athlete Well-being at UNC Greensboro designed its community of practice for the primary purpose of connecting and educating student-athlete support staff across NCAA member institutions to promote the health and well-being of student athletes.

But, as Center Director Jeffrey Milroy says, the community of practice achieves more than one goal by ensuring "consistent connection to our audience while also demonstrating ourselves as an expert in the field of athlete well-being."

MAKE IT EASY.

2) MAKE IT EASY.

To boost engagement, you want to do anything to make the process of learning easier, because your adult learners already have so much to do!

The Participate digital community of practice platform serves as a space for courses, resource collections, online events and digital badges — all with the simplicity of login credentials that take less than a minute to create.

When your learners have fewer barriers to become engaged members of your learning community, they have much more time to contribute their ideas, best practices and stories.

UMSL'S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION MAKES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR TEACHERS THROUGH A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE.

A grant with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education supports professors at the University of Missouri–St. Louis (UMSL) to provide literacy teaching and learning PD to educators across the state.

To scale their efforts and reach even more teachers, UMSL has leveraged a Participate community of practice to create a series of "Pop-up PD" — online courses freely available to any teachers.

Using Participate has proven to make life easier for the UMSL team, as well.

HOW?

"The technical assistance and project management support is so helpful. From community setup to digital badging support, I as a faculty member don't have to run interference. I can just focus on building community and on learning.

SHEA KERKHOFF
Assistant Professor of Secondary Education, UMSL

EMPOWER THROUGH RECOGNITION.

3) EMPOWER THROUGH RECOGNITION.

One of the best ways to create sustained engagement among your lifelong learners?

Empower and recognize them!

Within a digital community of practice like Participate, you can celebrate achievements in a number of ways:

- Keep tabs on which community members are highly engaged and spotlight them.
- Better yet, empower them to become facilitators and leaders.
- Digital badges are a great way to visually represent and demonstrate evidence of learning or achievement.

Participate's integrated digital badging system is built upon the Open Badges standard, meaning they are "verifiable, portable, and packed with information about skills and achievements."

VIEWABLE

DOWNLOADABLE

SHAREABLE

PRINTABLE

WANT MORE TIPS?

It may seem simple, but if you want to offer professional learning, you owe it to your learners to create an engaging, valuable experience.

Through a digital community of practice, your participants can explore, investigate and connect together, resulting in more enjoyable learning and deeper understanding.

WANT MORE TIPS LIKE THIS?

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