

REACHING THE TUNED OUT: INCREASING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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Workshop Objectives

The workshop is designed to gain a greater understanding of adult students who seem to persist with childlike behavior in online higher education programs, for example, not engaging, missing deadlines, submitting sloppy or others' work and as a result hamper efforts for collaborative learning and working. Objectives are to explore such behaviors and what might underlie them and to discuss challenges and opportunities they present. The format is designed to include the involvement of conferees that made presentations on or deal with similar topics. The desired outcome is for all participants to voice positions, questions, and concerns, and to consider ways to design learning and/or to better structure or use technology to increase student engagement.

Participants will be able to:

- Gain an understanding of adults in online higher education programs who persist with behaviors such as not engaging, missing deadlines, submitting sloppy or others' work.
- Identify challenges students and teachers encounter when dealing with these behaviors.
- Discuss strategies to increase engagement and responsibility for one's learning garnered from student comments, research and best practices.
- Working together in small groups, gain insight and generate and receive feedback on approaches that might be used to design learning and/or to better structure or use technology to increase student engagement.

Methods

Brief beginning lecturette to lay a common foundation (based on student comments, research, and best practices)

Techniques for getting to know fellow session participants and to identify challenges

Small group explorations and exercises; sharing

Post session follow-up

Outline

Many of us have encountered students who do not engage, miss deadlines, submit sloppy or others' work. This workshop provides an opportunity to understand more about such behaviors, what might undergird them and what might be done to counteract their effects. Does what we observe represent delayed development? Absence of learning goals? Lack of motivation? Do we change content? Use other technology? How might we structure learning differently? In short, how do we provide learning opportunities that not only help students gain knowledge or skills, but also assist them to be more mature adult learners?

To provide a common context, the session begins with a short input session that includes Northwestern State University online students' comments, research and best practices. Plan to come to explore questions and concerns, share your own success stories and challenges and through discussion and small group activities emerge with insights and perhaps usable approaches.

Optimum Number of Participants: Open