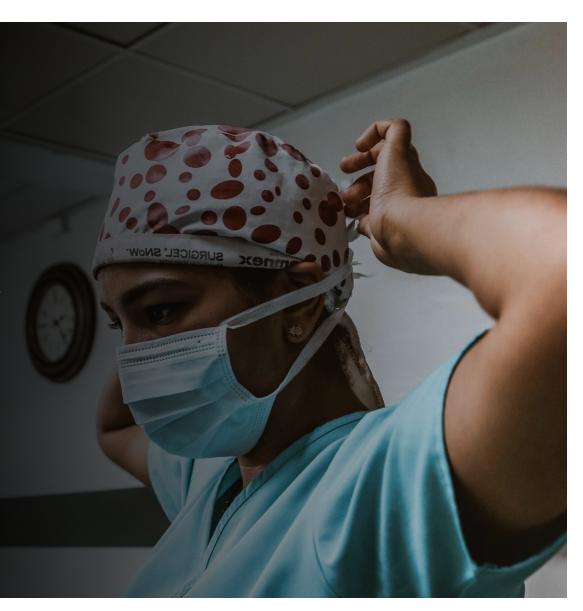


Agenda

- 1. Where are we?
- 2. What's ahead?
- 3. Who knows?

Presentation Files





De Pasition

Uncertainty

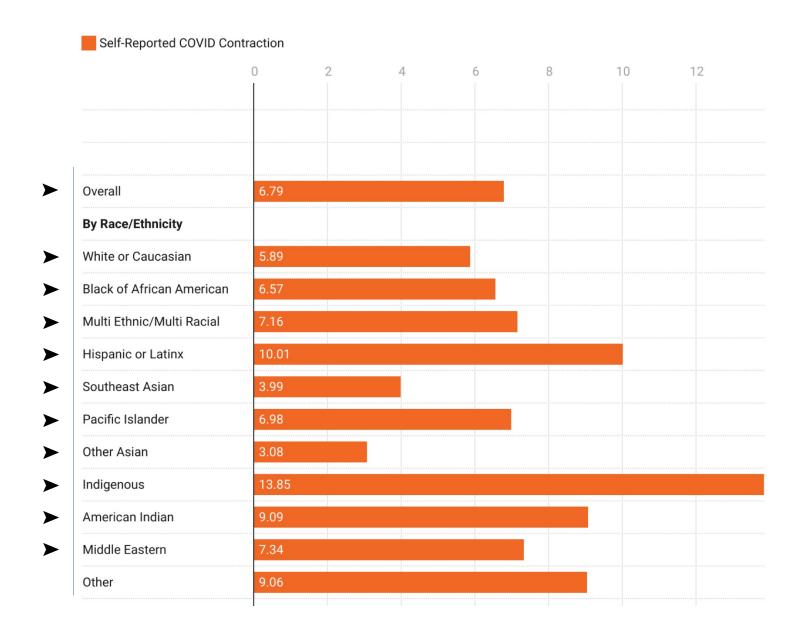


Where Are We Now?

COVID Infection, Mental Health, & Food Insecurities

- Overall, 7% of students indicated a COVID infection
- COVID infection was associated with
 - food insecurities
 - anxiety
 - depression

(The Hope Center, 2021; 100,000 students, Fall 2020, Self-report)



Where Are We Now?

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1.7 (odds)

1.3 (odds)

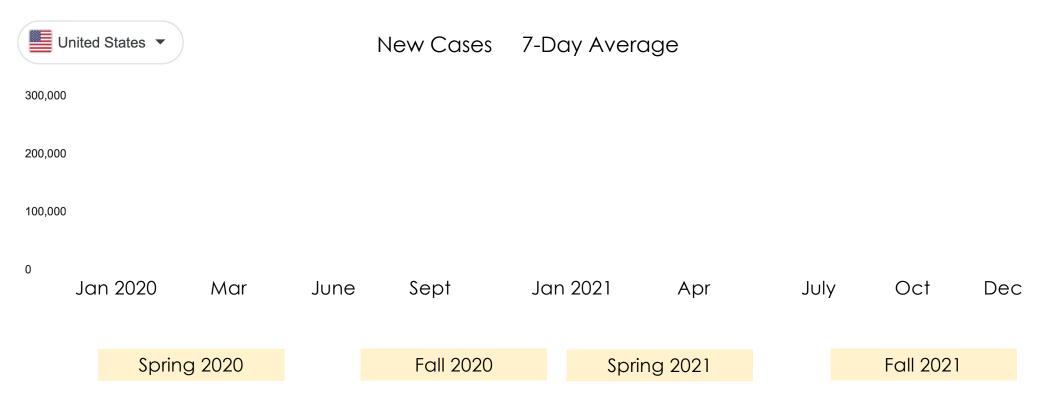
1.4 (odds)

(The Hope Center, 2021; 100,000 students, Fall 2020, Self-report)



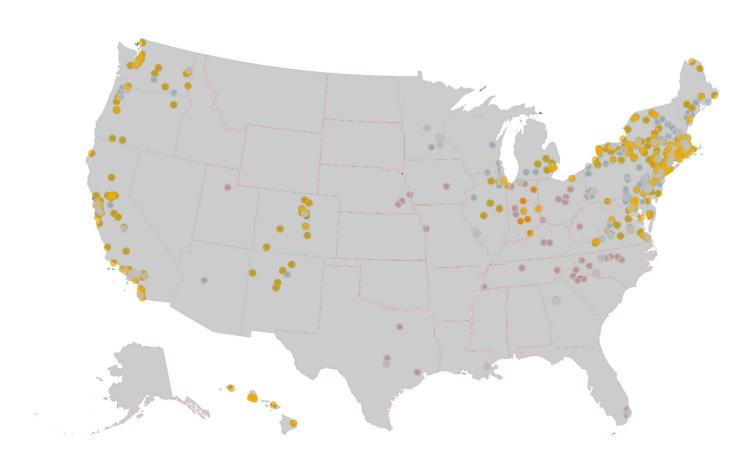
The pandemic has been disproportionately challenging for:

- Students of Color
- Queer Students
- Students of Low-Income Families



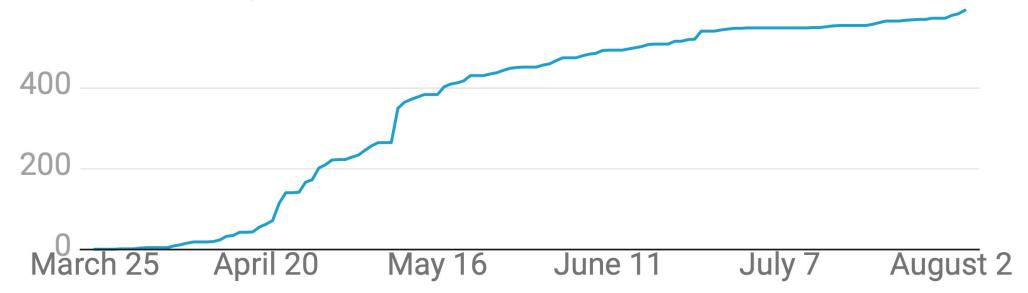
Colleges Private Public For-profit

Colleges & Universities Requiring Masks (as of August 6th)



College Announcements by Date

Cumulative count of college announcements





3 major post-COVID changes in higher education

Dr. Tim Eades, University Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Southern Nazarene University March 12, 2021

COVID presented challenges for higher education, but it also opened up new ways of teaching and learning—what's next for higher ed?



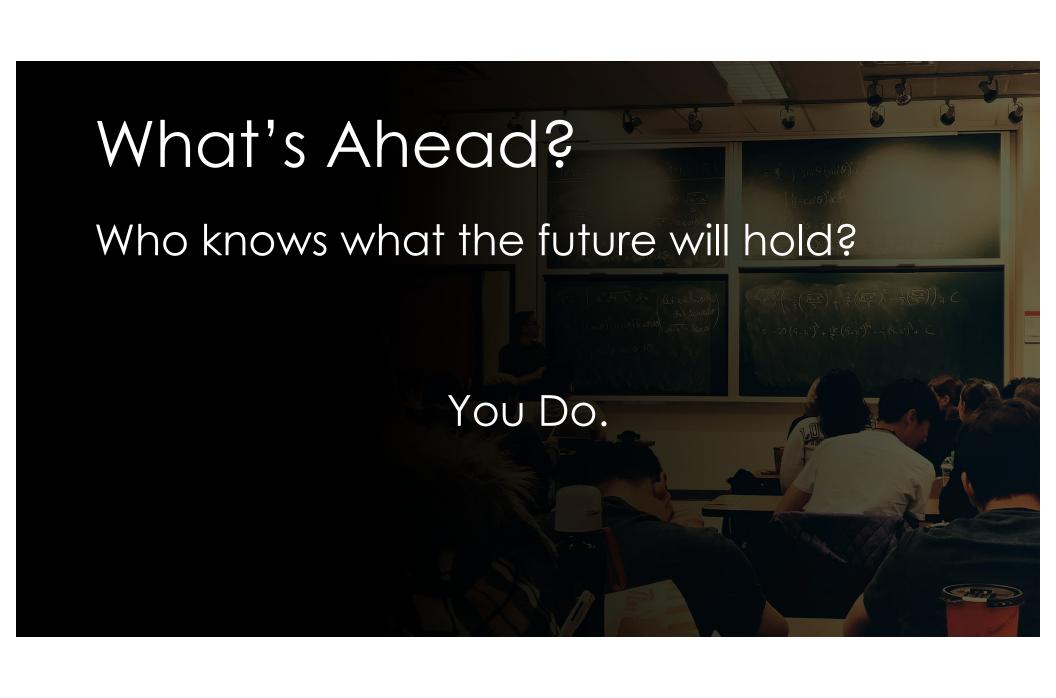
5 Things to Stick with in the Future (Cowell, 2021)

- 1. Increase in instructional technology use
- 2. Engagement will be more than showing up
- 3. Traditional exams out; Open-book/resource tasks in
- 4. Students will actively contribute to the course
- 5. Pedagogically: Less lecture; More interaction



3 Major Post-COVID Changes (Eades, 2021)

- 1. Increased focus on online degrees
- 2. Increased focus on instructional quality and relevance
- 3. Increased focus on instructional technologies



Survey (IRB Approved)

- 1. Considering your COVID-based teaching over the past 18 months, what did you learn during that COVID teaching that you will apply in your fall 2021 course(s)?
- 2. As we move toward classes in the fall, keeping in mind your experiences over the past 18 months, what can we do to better support our students' learning?

Survey Demographics

• 115 Responses (from 436 requests; 26% response rate)

- 68 females, 43 males, 4 non-binary
- 89 White, 11 Black, 5 Asian
- 49 years old (average)
- 17 years of experience (average)

Survey Demographics

• 115 Responses (from 436 requests; 26% response rate)

- 45 Social Sciences
- 36 Physical Sciences
- 24 Liberal Arts

- 14 1-15 Students
- 78 15-30 Students
- 11 31-50 Students
- 11 50+ Students

Emergent Themes

- 1. Students Have Lives, Respect Them
- 2. Actively Supporting Students' Mental Health
- 3. Employ (More) Engaging Instructional Methods
- 4. Contact, Communication, & Caring

Students' Have Lives

Students' lives beyond the class interact with their class performance, included various responsibilities:

- Caretaker
- Healthcare
- Childcare
- Financial
- Employment

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My students have caretaker (children & elderly) responsibilities.

It's important to be empathetic towards all the ups and downs in their lives.

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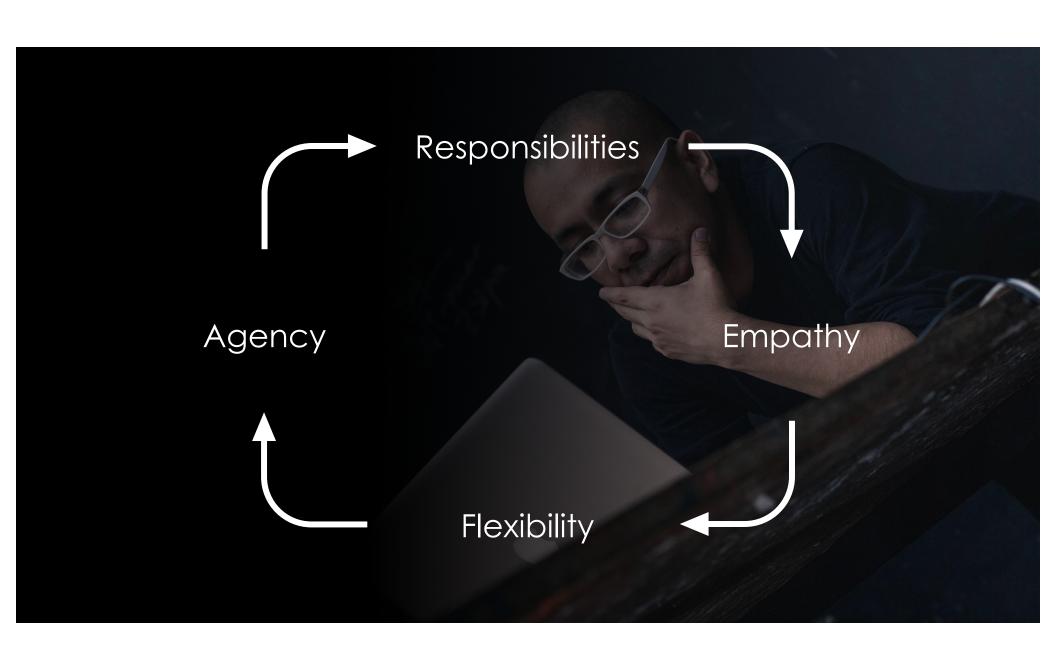
Be as flexible as possible because students have a lot going on and juggle many priorities.

Being flexible about deadlines and personal issues with students. They really struggled and we never really know the whole story.

"

Give them a sense of agency and voice in not only their learning, but in their lives.

Provide them with choices – whether that is how to do their work or a menu of options from which to choose.



Students' Mental Health

Students' mental health need to be foregrounded as it impact students' well being, as well as their class performance.

- Emotional Well-being
- Psychological Well-being
- Social Well-being

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I had students who had to drop classes because of mental health issues.

Students were isolated, anxious, and depressed. I had students who were homeless.

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I was reminded about the importance of making every space a safe space for students for their learning to occur.

Providing a safe space for students to share concerns and issues, both academically and personally.



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Check-in with students periodically regarding mental health and well-being.

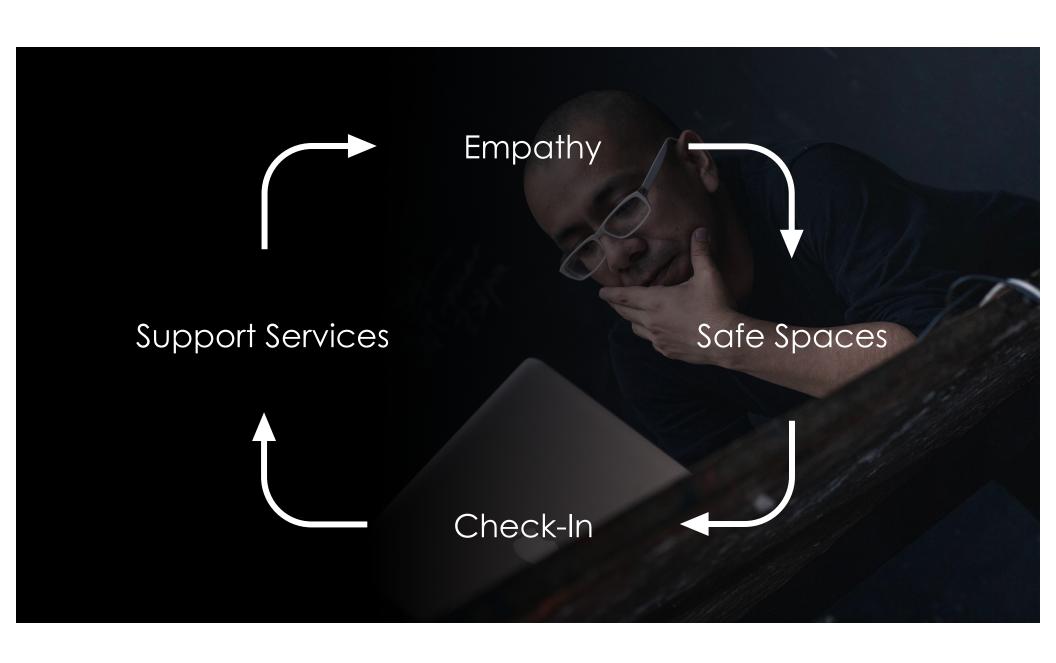
Regularly check on students' mental health and well-being. Provide direct opportunities to interact individually with the instructor.

5

Students are still emotionally unsteady and need emotional support. I will be providing a listening ear and suggest support services.

Many students experienced heightened mental health challenges that impacted their persistence and success in classes. We need greater partnerships among support services to ensure that mental health services are available to all our students.





Engaging Instructional Methods

Foster student learning by engaging students through active learning instructional strategies, such as:

- Class Presentations
- Open-ended Questions
- Problem-based Learning
- Team-based Learning
- Cooperative Learning

- Discussions
- Group Projects
- Peer Learning
- Small-group Tutoring
- Review Quizzes



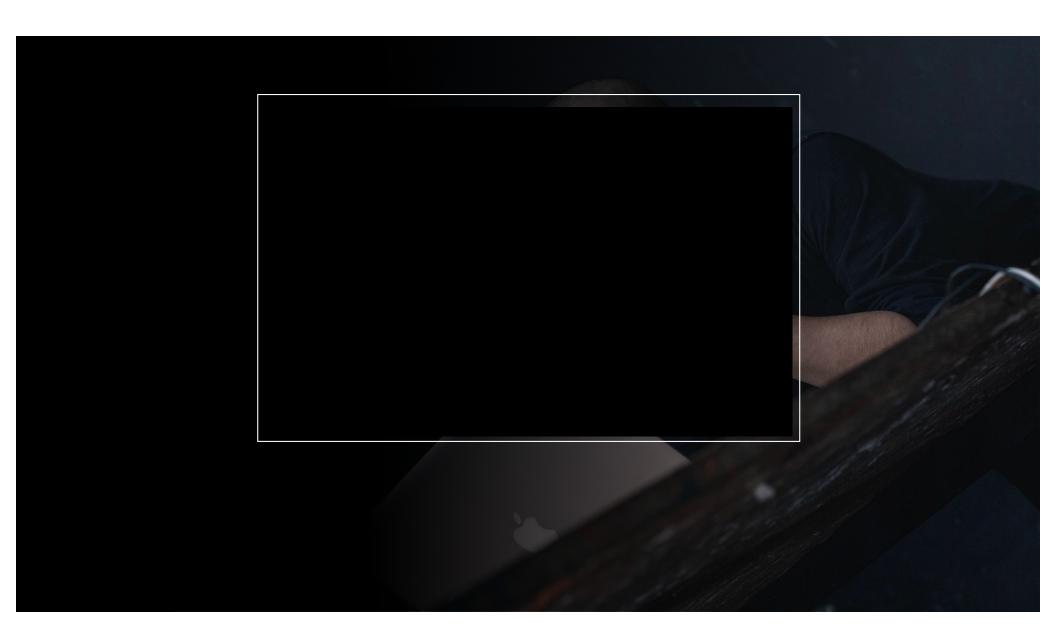
Get them more actively engaged and be engaged with them.

I learned that my students were faced with different challenges, and I had to reach each one of them and work out a plan to engage them in their learning process.

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A 'flipped classroom' model of requiring advance readings and responses will serve everyone better to liberate the precious time spent together for more quality interaction.

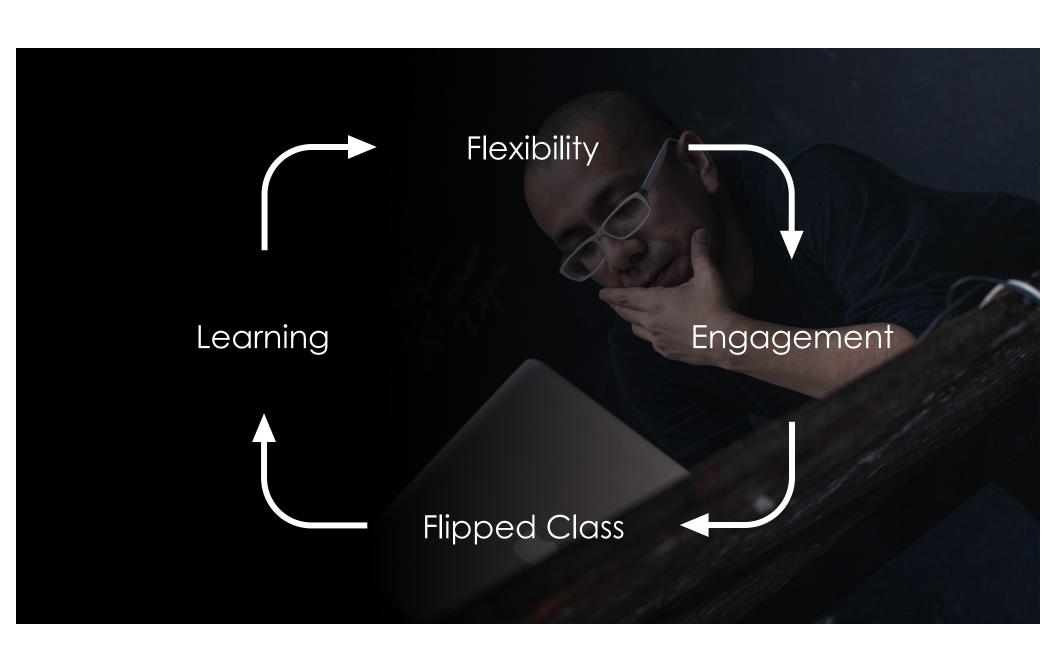
I really learned how little the students need a lecture from me. I'm going . . . to make the lecture an out of class review, and the class about applying concepts.



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I will definitely include a much wider variety of learning activities – those including technology, but also work to maximize the impact of in-class learning sessions.

I think we need to continue to work to maximize learning while considering the individual needs of each student.



Communication & Caring

Students' sense of loneliness, stress, and anxiety can be addressed through the development of a caring community.

- Small Things Matter
- Trauma Happened
- Self-Care
- Compassion

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I also feel that shared experiences let them know that they are not alone, that others face struggles as well and that we can support each other in our efforts to improve our learning.

I think taking time to validate and process students' stress levels would be helpful. Students like to learn that others are experiencing the same as them and they feel heard when the instructor takes time to process those stressors.



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There is a need for re-establishing culture, community, and in-person teamwork with students who have been largely behind screens for quite some time.

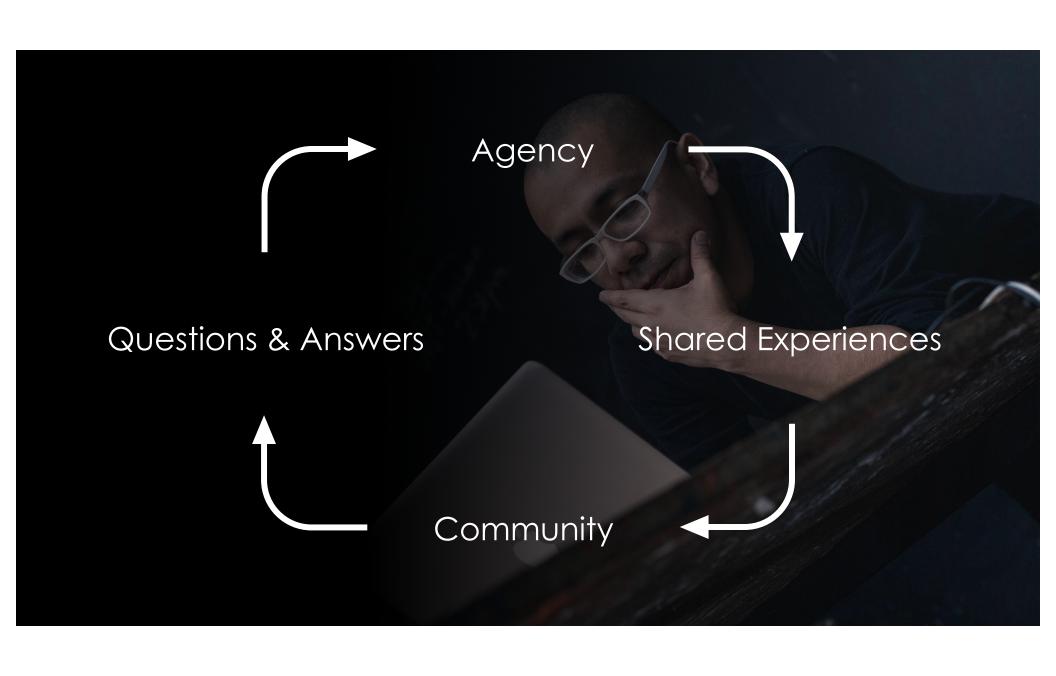
I will continue working as much as I can with the idea of creating a community in the classroom where we all become more aware of what we all go through when we face situations like the pandemic.

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Instead of answering questions through email exchanges, I plan on using Zoom meetings a LOT more to have quality discussions with students outside of class.

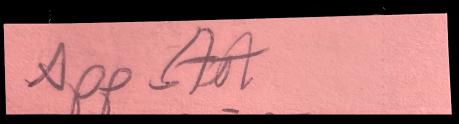
I have noticed that students respond much better to virtual office hours This option can give students the opportunity to ask questions they might not ask.



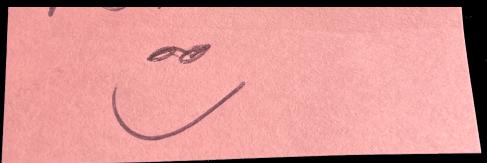


Emergent Themes

- 1. Students Have Lives, Respect Them
- 2. Actively Supporting Students' Mental Health
- 3. Employ (More) Engaging Instructional Methods
- 4. Contact, Communication, & Caring



At the end of the day, I believe a great many faculty provided excellent instruction these last 18 months.



Before We Go . . .

"Normal" was not always the best – we know better now, so we should do better.

Uncertainty remains.

