Session Description:

Making Connections that Count: Tales from the Trenches

With its multiple functionalities, Blackboard Collaborate is an effective tool used in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta to support distance and on-campus learning, professional development, research and learning communities. Because of its positive impact on research, teaching and administration Blackboard Collaborate has been embraced by our Faculty and students. Blackboard Collaborate’s ability to provide a mechanism to increase both social and teaching presence enables the creation of authentic and engaging learning spaces which enhance the teaching/learning process as well as student/student and student/instructor interaction. Researchers and administrators using Blackboard Collaborate have increased their opportunities and possibilities for collaboration. The feedback we get from our users reinforces our conviction that Blackboard Collaborate brings added value to teaching, learning, research and administrative environments. In this presentation we will share our faculty members’ experiences as well as lessons we have learned from our Faculty-wide implementation of Blackboard Collaborate.

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