Technology-Mediated Caring: Building Relationships Between Students and Instructors in Online K-12 Learning Environments*

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Abstract: Caring is an important component of K-12 teaching and learning. An increasing number of K-12 students are enrolling in online courses. The physical separation of students and teachers in the online medium requires a change in the way caring relationships are formed. In this chapter we examine how teachers worked to develop caring relationships with students at the Open High School of Utah, an online charter high school in the United States. Findings indicate that teachers were able to implement all aspects of Noddin’s model of moral education in ways unique to online contexts, and at times with more depth than experienced in a face-to-face context.

*The full manuscript by the same name has been accepted for publication as a book chapter. Any citation of this work should be referenced to the full manuscript: