

FOCUS ON FACULTY



CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING @ UCM

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FLIPGRID.

Looking for a new way to engage your students in an online discussion format?

Consider [FLIPGRID](#), a video based discussion platform. Interact with your students from any device by recording short (less than 90-seconds) videos and have them record their responses. All responses are then laid out in a grid format for others in the class to view. It's a great way to interact with students in an online environment. It also embeds directly into your Blackboard courses. Watch FLIPGRID in action in [this video](#).

Did you know?

Tips for faculty

The more you place instructional materials online; the more you need to consider a concept that Moore and Kearsly (2005) call "transactional distance" — the physical or social space between two individuals interacting in an online environment. Transactional Distance helps describe the comfort a learner feels toward the instructor and peers while interacting online. An article from [Getting Smart](#) suggests some strategies that you can use to provide comfort and familiarity to your online environment. Read the whole article "Reducing Transactional Distance Online: Making Learners Comfortable" [online here](#).



Use this [Planning Calendar](#) as you plan your next semester.

Faculty Watercooler

Faculty discussions on subjects that matter to you

Activities for Building Cultural Competencies in Our Students and Ourselves—Wondering how to best approach the subjects of diversity and inclusion in your courses? What is our responsibility as university faculty to broach this sensitive subject with our students? In [this article](#) Dr. Melissa Gomez shares some insights from her "humbling and empowering" experience teaching a health disparities class. She describes how her personal perspectives were challenged and provides some of the guiding principles she uses to formulate meaningful and productive activities for her students. A link to download the full report *Diversity and Inclusion in the College Classroom* is available with the article if you are interested in digging into the subject more deeply.

Keeping Up

The latest in Teaching and Learning

Online Students Want Interaction, Community by Rhea Kelly
A [recent research report](#) targeted 1500 current and potential online college students to better understand their educational needs, desires and behaviors. Findings include opinion data on competency based programs, reasons for choosing online and programmatic expectations of today's education consumers.

We will be including a new "2 minute takeaway" feature in each issue with a videotaped nugget of advice from a teaching peer, courtesy of [Innovative Educators!](#)



Suggestions?
Please click on our [Ideas box!](#)

2 minute

What is your best kept retention secret?

by Stewart Erlich

takeaway