

They're Enrolled, Now Keep Them Engaged

August 19, 2020

This webinar shared tips and strategies to build community and social belonging in the first weeks of the term so you can start strong and support retention in your new online course.

Below are responses to questions posed during the webinar.

What is Productive Persistence?

Productive Persistence is student behavior that exhibits tenacity and the application of good strategies when confronted with a challenge. The social-emotional supports embedded within the Carnegie Math Pathways curriculum have been designed to teach and support this behavior in students within the context of math.

The primary factors that promote productive persistence in students are:

- Students believing they are capable of learning
- Students feeling socially tied to peers, faculty, and their course
- Students believing the course has value
- Students having the skills, habits and know-how to succeed in the college setting
- Faculty and colleges supporting students' skills and mindsets

How can you help students build a growth mindset?

Faculty should emphasize effort and strategies rather than luck or lack of ability as explanations for success or failure. Specific activities, such as a growth mindset writing exercise, allow students to reframe their mathematical learning as the result of achievable struggle similar to physical exercise and muscle growth.

What are the Carnegie Math Pathways Network and Community Forum?

The Carnegie Math Pathways network is composed of all of the institutions and faculty that teach Quantway and Statway courses and have completed the initial training. Once in the network, every faculty has access to the Community Forum that is used for sharing across network institutions. As was mentioned in the webinar, it was through this forum that one of the faculty presenters connected with a faculty member across the country and learned about the liquid syllabus.

What is a liquid syllabus and where can I see an example?

A liquid syllabus provides academic and non-academic information and support for students that is dynamic, visually compelling and can be accessed, bookmarked, and read easily from a smartphone or tablet. The syllabus provides:

- **academic information** such as a course outline, format, timeline, notes, grading, etc., and can be edited/added onto as the course progresses.
- Addresses **non-academic components** such as sense of belonging, equity, and growth mindset.
- Contains **campus resources** so that students can easily access information i.e. tutoring services, campus reopening plans, keeping safe, technology services, and WiFi hotspots.

You can see a sample of a liquid syllabus [here](#).

How do you facilitate conversation when there is silence?

When students are quiet and do not respond to questions or discussion prompts, there are many different ways to initiate or encourage participation. Instructional strategies shared on the webinar included:

- regularly and continuously emphasizing the value of everyone sharing their voice and that all feedback and thoughts are welcome;
- calling on students systematically or randomly (e.g. drawing names from a hat or giving numbers out and using a random number generator) so that all students participate, and then tracking participation.

Additional Questions?

If you are interested in learning more, please contact us at info@carnegiemathpathways.org.