Students Speak about Engagement - 3/26/21 - Takeaways

Community Building
- Conduct ice breakers at the beginning of class
- **Create rapport**: ask students how they are doing
- Share and encourage students to attend campus and University events
- Consider combining a check-in question with taking attendance
- Consider using the same **breakout** groupings to promote community building

In-Class Learning Activities that Promote Engagement
- **Zoom Polls, Chat Questions, Reactions**
- Invite guest speakers relevant in the field
- Plan small group activities/discussions/debates
- Show your excitement and passion for the content
- Periodically change up the classroom dynamic/schedule with something different
- Use interactive sticky notes during Zoom (Google Jamboard or Padlet)
- Consider utilizing a technology like Top Hat, Kahoot, or Flipgrid to engage students in a different way
- Showing videos in class can be engaging, but can also be overdone

Outside-of-Class Learning Activities that Promote Engagement
- Provide lecture handouts prior to class
- Conduct a low-stakes quiz after the lecture to check for understanding and practice application
- Assign reaction papers or other assignments that allow students to reflect or share their personal opinions
- Assign a video to watch prior to class and then discuss in class

Cameras
- Student opinions were split:
  - Having their camera on is more distracting to them
  - Having their camera on keeps them from getting distracted
- All students appreciated flexibility and understanding from faculty regarding camera use

Please Keep When Back to Face-to-Face
*(Note: almost all the suggestions above apply to any teaching mode)*
- Incorporate **Polling/Clicker** questions into a lecture
- Plan small group activities to allow students to discuss lecture material
- Provide lecture recordings for students to revisit for clarification
- Consider sharing **pre-recorded** lectures in Canvas prior to class

*Please contact your instructional designer with any questions or email jlm394@psu.edu to get connected to an instructional designer.*