



Creating Human Connections in Digital Spaces

Seven themes. Seven values.
Self Reflection and One Small Thing.



Seven Themes reflect Seven Values.



THEME 1

Ethic of Care
and Human
Connection

We lead
with care,
by design.



THEME 2

Communication,
Transparency,
and Shared
Governance

We decide
together, in
the open.



THEME 3

Faculty Growth
and Capacity

We make
room to
grow with
time, peers,
and choice.



THEME 4

Institutional
Infrastructure
for Sustained
Innovation

We give
good ideas
lasting
support.



THEME 5

Technology and
Data Literacy in
Service of
Connection

We use
tools & data
for
connection
and service.



THEME 6

Program-Level
Identity as the
Lever of Change

Programs
shape the
student
experience.



THEME 7

Students as
Partners in Their
Own Learning

Students
are partners
in learning,
not
recipients.

Explore a question. Spark an idea. Share one small thing.

one. small. thing.



Taking the Student Perspective



Ethic of Care and Human Connection

We lead with care.



Program-Level Identity as the Lever of Change

Programs shape the student experience.



Student Agency and Voice

Students are partners in learning, not recipients.

SELF REFLECTION QUESTIONS



We lead with care.

What is one thing you already do that makes online students feel seen?



Programs shape the student experience.

What would a student notice that is the same across your program's online courses?



Students are partners in learning, not recipients.

Where do students get real choice (agency) in your courses, your program?

BREAK OUT DISCUSSION



We lead with care.



Programs shape the student experience.



Students are partners in learning, not recipients.

**Brainstorm some
“one small thing”
ideas that would
exhibit these values
in your sphere.
(i.e., program, department, course, etc.)**

MORE IDEAS TO KEEP IT GOING



We lead with care.

1 Record a short welcome video in your own voice for your course or department/program.

2 Send a personal check-in message after contact with a student.



Programs shape the student experience.

1 Implement the same one small thing as a team across the program.
(e.g., welcome videos, real Bb profile pics, mid-semester check-in)

2 Use one common navigation pattern across program courses.



Students are partners in learning, not recipients

1 Offer a choice of topic or format on one assignment.

2 Run a two-question pulse check at midterm or after departmental contact/service.

Our Shared Worklife



Communication, Transparency,
and Shared Governance

**We decide together,
in the open.**



Faculty Growth and Capacity

**We make room to grow with
time, peers, and choice.**



Institutional Infrastructure for
Sustained Innovation

**We give good ideas lasting
support.**



Technology and Data Literacy
in Service of Connection

**We use tools & data for
connection and service.**

SELF REFLECTION QUESTIONS



**We decide together,
in the open.**



**We make room to grow
with time, peers, and
choice.**



**We give good ideas
lasting support.**



**We use tools & data for
connection and service.**

What information do you wish faculty, staff, and/or students had sooner or with more clarity?

What motivates you to try something new or “beta test” a new idea?

What is working well but you are afraid will fade away without attention and support?

Do I tend to see data as inherently depersonalizing? How can my relationship with data promote connection?

BREAK OUT DISCUSSION



**We decide together,
in the open.**



**We make room to grow
with time, peers, and
choice.**



**We give good ideas
lasting support.**



**We use tools & data for
connection and service.**

**Brainstorm some
“one small thing”
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in your sphere.
(i.e., program, department, course, etc.)**

MORE IDEAS TO KEEP IT GOING



**We decide together,
in the open.**

1 Explain the why behind one policy or expectation.

2 Share a short "what I heard and what changed" with stakeholders.



**We make room to grow
with time, peers, and
choice.**

1 Invite a colleague to review one course or program aspect and act upon the feedback.

2 Try out a case study or debrief recurring agenda item at regular group meetings.

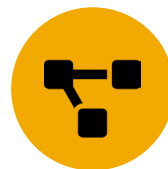
MORE IDEAS TO KEEP IT GOING



We give good ideas lasting support.

1 Save a successful activity as a reusable template and share it.

2 Create and share a one-page guide or video on something that worked and why.



We use tools & data for connection and service.

1 Send messages of encouragement based upon engagement & activity data.

2 Count the tools students must use with you, then streamline one.

Remember...

one small thing

What is one small thing you could try for helping students connect with you, with each other, and with the program/department?

Share your thoughts with your Community of Practice, your department, Faculty Senate conversations, your work bestie, a mentor, your journal...

