Building Student Engagement with Google Spaces

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Recommended Citation

The Google Suite has provided faculty with new tools that can be leveraged to improve student engagement. One such tool, Google Spaces, is an easy to setup group chat that could help with community building and facilitates instructor-to-student, student-to-instructor, and student-to-student communication all from within the Google platform.

In this session, the presenter will demonstrate a quick and easy method for creating a Google Space for a class. The presenter will also discuss the results of having used Google Space with her classes and brainstorm with participants uses for Google Spaces in future classes across disciplines.

For example, in the presenter's classes, students in a big data statistics class are allowed to share R programming code that can be used in the data analysis as long as students cite the source of that code. Since the class is evaluating the analysis of the data and not the students' programming ability, the improved communication provided by Google Spaces is good for the students in that it lessens frustration and improves the students' ability to complete the coding necessary to get to the actual course assignment.   Google Spaces also allows the instructor to see the chat strings which may reduce plagiarism and cheating.

This particular session could provide department chairs with ideas for leveraging this free and easy-to-use tool for enhancing communication and building student engagement and community. Participants will have access to a "How to Guide" developed by the presenter for use in training her faculty on Google Spaces.