

Montague – CTE Scholars Carl D. Laird (2010-11) **College of Engineering**

Encourage Lifelong Learning Through Participation in Online Technical Communities

Online Technical Communities

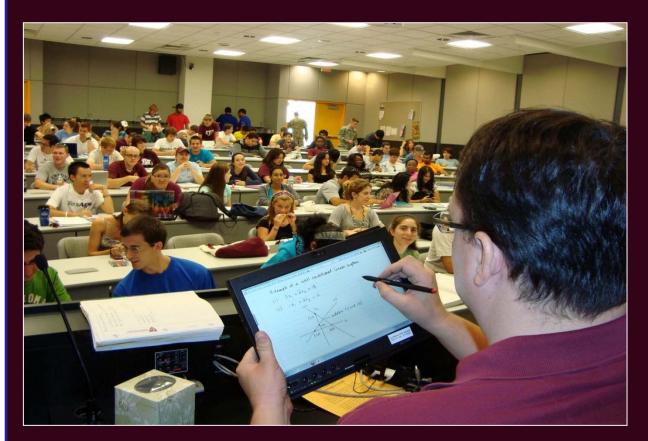
Mechanism for Lifelong Learning

Mechanism for Lifelong Contribution

Online technical communities provide a valuable opportunity for continued lifelong learning. While services provide communication social online pathways and potential for professional networks, technical communities are much more focused on developing, debating, and disseminating technically relevant content. Online technical communities provide the most up-to-date information in these rapidly

changing fields.

These communities also provide a unique opportunity for our graduates to engage in a lifelong practice of contributing to their field and increasing society's understanding of science and engineering.



The use of a tablet in the classroom keeps the pace of note writing while allowing the instructor to maintain visual contact with the students.

Dr. Laird gratefully acknowledges the Montague-Center for Teaching Excellence Scholars Awards Program for providing funding used towards the purchase of a tablet computer, rackmount web server for the forum, and student support.

Creating A Community Using an Online Classroom Forum





Student Feedback Regarding the Online Classroom Forum

"The forum is a great way to receive specific attention from the professor, teaching assistants, and even other students! It has allowed me to collaborate and communicate with my classmates in a simple and efficient manner."

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"The forum allows me to see if students are having similar difficulties on a specific question as well as any solutions to that problem."

"I thought the forum was most helpful for me to study for tests and check my full understanding of concepts taught in the course. I read through the questions that other students post on the forum, and I see if I am capable of answering those questions without consulting my class notes. I find this method quite effective in my learning process because the forum allows me to think about problems and concepts from the different perspectives of my classmates and instructor."