Dr. Berna Hascakir (Associate Professor, Petroleum Engineering) has increased student engagement within lectures threefold. Her two courses of action for enhancing student motivation are found through Off Topic Subject Time (TedTalks) and In-Class Activities (fill in the blank lectures). Dr. Hascakir believes that the combination of these two methods (TED Talk+ICA) successfully helped students apply VAK learning styles despite the online nature of the lectures.

Off Topic Subject Time
Dr. Hascakir implements Off Topic Subject Time into her lectures, in these off-topic sessions, the intention is to answer questions related to student life during and immediately after Texas A&M. Based on the feedback received from students, these lectures have a major impact on student morale and motivation, and makes the instructor more approachable to students even regarding technical subjects. Please click the computer screen to the left to watch a video by Dr. Hascakir explaining Off Topic Subject Time.

In-Class Activities (ICAs)
In effort to combat low student attendance, In-Class Activities (ICAs) can be implemented into lecture. Examples of ICAs are lecture videos that require fill-in-the-blank, short-answer, or problem-solution types of questions. ICAs make students watch the lecture videos (addressing Visual and Auditory needs of student learning) and the completion of ICAs makes students write down the concepts. Please click the computer screen to the right to watch a video by Dr. Hascakir explain how learning takes place.