Supporting online learning communities

Collection: Interacting with learners

Coming August 2018

In this always-connected digital world, it's extremely likely that all of us participate in some form of online community. That's any digital site or platform that you visit regularly to communicate with others about a particular topic. No wonder then that we're increasingly likely to use them as a tool to support learning.

An online community is a powerful tool to engage, inspire and support your learners. But it's unlikely to succeed without careful planning and support.

Supporting Online Learning Communities has been designed to help you make the most of the opportunities that a community can bring to your learners.

You'll learn how to select the right type of community, identify the roles that you and others will need to take, establish your presence in the community, decide when to get involved and when not to, and explore ways to keep things moving by promoting content and conversation.

If you're starting from scratch, or have a choice of platforms, we'll give you some tips about choosing the right tool for the job

You'll get everything you need to be a success: the key principles to establishing and managing an online community, ideas for creating or curating content when you need it, loads of practical tips to help you support the community and some quick reference materials to take away.

Is this for you?

This course is aimed at anyone who would like to use an online learning community to enhance and extend learning and collaboration. It is important to recognise that for a learning community to be successful, its participants are likely to need support. There is a crucial role to play in keeping content fresh and reliable, encouraging contribution and collaboration, and ensuring that the community develops in the intended direction.

So, whatever role you play in a learning community - and there are many - it is going to be critical to the success of the learning experience. Our aim with this course is to help you to do a fantastic job of supporting learners in a learning community.

The specifics

Complete this course and you'll be able to:

- Select the right type of community to support your learners
- Identify that roles that you and others need to take in the community
- Establish your presence in the community
- Keep things moving by promoting content and conversation
- Decide when to get involved and when not to
- Pick the right tool for the job

How it works

The course is comprised of eleven lessons, each of which includes at least one video and sometimes an activity to complete. You will also be provided with a range of valuable resources that you can use for on-going reference.