

The EDUCAUSE Top Teaching and Learning Challenges 2008

The EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, dedicated to the innovative use of information technology for teaching and learning, is kick-starting a community-wide effort to surface and synthesize the biggest "challenges" in teaching and learning with IT. More than a mere brainstorming exercise, the project focuses on identifying issues and then generating community solutions and resources around them. Throw your ideas on the table during this interactive project briefing and get the inside scoop on this community project. Learn, debate, and join the community process!

Facilitators:

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Project Background

During Summer 2008, the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative sat down with focus groups within the EDUCAUSE teaching and learning community to talk about "challenges"—those big issues dominating campus conversations across the country. EDUCAUSE wanted to know:

- *In the next two to three years, what big challenges face teaching and learning with IT in higher education?*
- *Do they vary based on geography or institutional classification?*
- *Who's building solutions?*

What emerged, in addition to a long list of challenges, was an underlying desire to do more than simply list the big issues—to create a dynamic collection of resources and ideas, to share case studies that showcase innovative answers, and to establish a network of peers willing to talk about their institutions and problem-solve as a community.

The Top Teaching and Learning Challenges project is a community effort to both surface issues and to aggregate resources that can help to address them. Through online brainstorming, face-to-face sessions at the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference, and an EDUCAUSE-wide community vote, participants will identify the top-five issues in teaching and learning with technology. With the list in hand, the community will begin building content around each challenge, creating dynamic resource pages in wikis within EDUCAUSE Connect, and through collaborative working groups on the Challenges Ning Network. Adding to the readings and resources, community members will also be asked to contribute new content by drafting case study "community solutions" or creating podcasts and videos to illustrate solutions from their own campuses.

In addition to these tangible products and resources, the project will focus on community building—creating connections between EDUCAUSE members and facilitating conversations among campuses. Through discussion sessions at EDUCAUSE regional conferences and learning circles at the ELI Annual Meeting, the dialogue continues. In the spring, EDUCAUSE will host "Issues in Focus" webinars that invite higher education associations from across the spectrum to weigh in with their perspectives.

During today's session, you'll have the chance to learn about the project, determine roles for you and your campus colleagues, and contribute to the discussion. This is your chance to set the agenda and collaborate with colleagues around real solutions and innovative directions.

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Project Roles

Community Member

Any EDUCAUSE member with an interest in teaching and learning can join the process. Community members can generate and share wiki content, join a challenges workgroup, or simply search for solutions in the community wiki. To stay up to date, join the Challenges Ning Network and adjust your e-mail settings to receive community alerts.

Community Builder

The Challenges Ning Network serves as a communications hub; the wiki is the project's online workspace. But the project will need "community builders" to recruit new volunteers, spread the word, and maintain community momentum.

Workspace Manager

As the top-five challenges are identified, the initial project wiki branches to create resource pages for each challenge. Workspace managers organize, filter, and leverage community members to research and generate content for these dynamic bibliography pages. They also serve as administrators and discussion facilitators for the Challenges Ning Network groups.

Discussion Facilitator

Facilitators help lead discussion and solution-building sessions at each of the EDUCAUSE regional conferences.

Community Content Agent

These lead project collaborators serve as content researchers and scribes for EDUCAUSE regional conference discussion sessions; populate the wiki with information gathered at EDUCAUSE events; and scan their own campuses for resources to share and best practices to highlight.

Community Process Researcher

The challenges process itself is an experiment in community interaction and engagement. Researchers maintain a bird's-eye view of the process as it unfolds, reflecting on participant engagement through observations and critical feedback.

Key Links:

The Challenges Homepage (www.educause.edu/eli/challenges)

Get the background and learn more about key dates in the process.

The Challenges Ning Network (TLChallenges09.ning.com)

Join your colleagues in the Challenges social network. Sign up for updates, join a working group around the challenges, or add your voice to community discussion.

The Challenges Wiki (connect.educause.edu/wiki/TLChallenges09)

As the project unfolds, key resources around each challenge will be housed on wikis in EDUCAUSE Connect. Bookmark these pages to add your own resources or to peruse community-generated media.

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