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#STUDENTLEARNINGMATTERS

Enhancing Content Delivery to Increase Learning and Retention

**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS
TO FOSTER
CONNECTEDNESS**

RESEARCH INDICATES THAT BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS INCREASES THEIR SUCCESS AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE RETENTION (NAEGELI COSTA & MIMS, 2021).

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." - Maya Angelou

Ask Yourself...How can I build stronger relationships with my students?

When students feel connected to their professor and the class, they report...

1. Increased motivation and investment. Many students indicate they work harder and enjoy the academic process more when they feel connected to a class.
2. Increased retention. Students report that connectedness helped them better internalize and understand the course material.
3. A sense of security and comfort. Students indicate that the more connected they feel, the more comfortable they are in class, which in turn leads to increased class participation.

Ways to Build Relationships...

1

Learn your students' names. If you are not great at remembering names, ask your students to say their names before making a comment or use name tents. Use their names as frequently as possible.

2

Share your stories. Stories help your students learn more about you and make you seem more relatable and approachable.



3

Know your students like you want them to know your curriculum. Ask your students questions about their lives to show you are interested and care. The acronym FORD can help if you cannot think of what to ask (F - Family, O - Organizations, R -Recreational Activities, D - Dreams/Passions).



4

Have a sense of humor. Humor can go a long way toward tearing down walls and building classroom solidarity and community.



5

Remind students about resources outside the classroom. The extra effort goes a long way.

“Once you know your curriculum and you’ve got a firm grasp on what you are teaching, your homework is no longer understanding how to explain your topics. Your homework becomes learning about your students.” - Tyler Tarver