

## **Creating Community in the Online Classroom... it's the little things that count** By Amy L. Schelling

### Tools for *Creating and Sustaining Instructor Cyber Presence*: **Quality Communication**

- Timely feedback that is personalized and meaningful
- Prompt email responses
- Personalized grade book comments
- Personalized discussion board grade book comments
- Audio feedback on assignments
- Voice announcements and emails

### Tools for *Creating and Fostering a Community of Learners*: **Get to Know and Collaborate**

- Icebreaker discussion board forum
- Personal bio/get to know me video by instructor
- Teacher's Lounge (open DB forum for communicating about non course related items)
- Encouraging posing of questions/assistance from peers
- Collaborative projects using the wiki tool
- Blackboard Instant Messaging... model for student use

### Tools for *Creating and Sustaining Student Engagement*: **Active Involvement**

- Course navigation video
- Public presentation/sharing of student work
- Frequent instructor-student contact
- Meaningful use of discussion board and journaling tools (dialogue vs. monologue, inquiry, reflection)
- Virtual office hours using Blackboard Instant Messaging
- Synchronous class meetings

