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