



Center for Learning Innovations &
Customized Knowledge Solutions




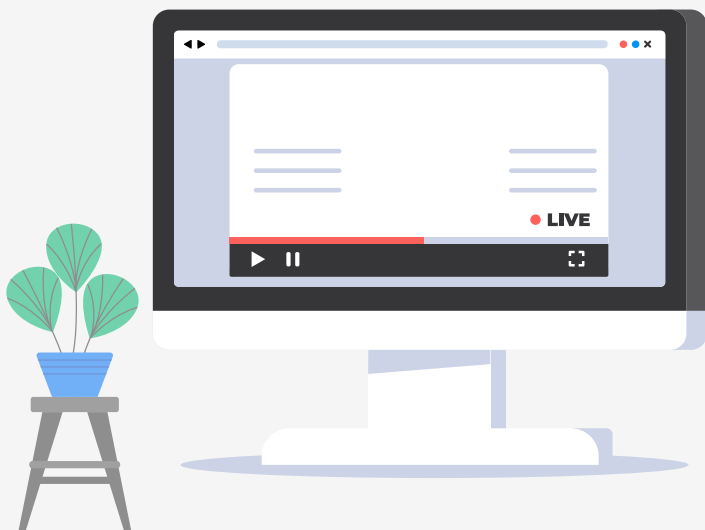
AGENCE UNIVERSITAIRE
DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

Webinar on

BUILDING LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTS

23rd November, 2021

 10:00 – 14:00 Beirut Time



Webinar Overview

Building an online learning community is neither automatic nor simple to achieve. We have to understand the structural elements of social learning and learners' motivational layers. Community interactions are unpredictable and require planning and commitment on the part of the instructor. In order to promote the use of forums and other community spaces and enhance student perceptions of their learning, it is important that students are aware of the benefits of peer and collaborative learning.

This four-hour webinar will emphasize on the concept of building learning communities and the role of the instructor and students play. It will discuss specific pedagogical strategies for instructors to consider; in addition to presenting a wide range of methods and tips found useful for building or maintaining a strong sense of community will be shared throughout the session.



Webinar Objectives

By the end of the webinar participants will:

- ◆ Understand the importance of online community building and teaching the whole student for student learning and academic achievement.
- ◆ Apply specific methods and strategies to build strong learning communities.
- ◆ Integrate the concept of peer and collaborative learning in courses and teaching
- ◆ Use virtual spaces and asynchronous and synchronous communication tools to strengthen learning community ties.
- ◆ Understand the role of instructors and how to establish an online presence to create high impact on student learning.
- ◆ Reflect on your current teaching practices and share experiences with other participants.

Key Topics

- ◆ What is an online learning community?
- ◆ The Key characteristics of learning communities
- ◆ Barriers and Challenges in building learning communities
- ◆ Classroom community building
- ◆ 3 R's of Learning Communities: RESPECT, RELATIONSHIPS, and RELEVANCE
- ◆ The role of instructors and how to establish an instructor's presence
- ◆ Promoting peer and collaborative learning
- ◆ Ways to build online learning communities
- ◆ Using virtual spaces and social media
- ◆ Flexible options for building learning communities

Who is this Webinar for?

- ◆ Deans of Colleges/ Faculties
- ◆ Faculty and teaching staff members

Webinar Facilitator



Prof. Melinda dela Pena Bandalaria

Chancellor, University of the Philippines Open University,
Philippines

Dr. Melinda dela Peña Bandalaria is a professor at the University of the Philippines Open University and is also currently serving as its Chancellor since 2016. She was also President of the Asian Association of Open Universities for the term 2017-2019 and continues to chair the Asian MOOCs Steering Committee. Dr. Bandalaria has been actively involved in developing course modules for open online courses and teaching in this mode of instruction for more than 20 years. She has been doing research on open online courses and on Universal Design for Learning as integrated into OERs and online courses. She has authored/co-authored a number of journal articles and book chapters in the field and has always been invited to keynote national and international conferences. An advocate of open education, she can be considered to have spearheaded the development and offering of MOOCs in the Philippines and its use by Higher Education Institutions in the country under the model MOOCs as OERs as one strategy to improve the quality of education.

She has led the university's initiative #OPENFight against COVID to help the educational institutions in her country to transition from classroom instruction to remote teaching and learning to ensure that learning continues even during

About AUF

The Agence universitaire de la Francophonie is a worldwide association for institutions of Higher Education and research. Founded more than 60 years ago, it groups more than 900 institutions of Higher Education and research spread over five continents in more than one hundred countries. It is also the operator of the Francophonie Summit for Higher Education and research.

AUF STRATEGY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

87 institutions of Higher Education and research in the region from 16 countries: Saudi Arabia, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Syria, Qatar, and Yemen. AUF established its strategy of action in the Middle East to accompany its member institutions based on the following five axes:

- ◆ Developing a partnership policy in universities which is consistent with the requirements of the socio-professional world and setting up an entrepreneurial approach,
- ◆ Reforming teaching methods through educational innovation by using digital tools among others,
- ◆ Developing expertise and innovation skills through research and meeting the societal challenges which represent a priority for the region,
- ◆ Establishing an institutional, or even a national approach, in favor of quality and evaluation,
- ◆ Strengthening the role of universities as actors of global development, including through intercultural dialogue and mediation.

For many years, AUF has been strongly committed to supporting its member institutions in the digital transformation and development of Higher Education, a commitment that makes all the more sense today.



About CLICKS

The Center for Learning Innovations and Customized Knowledge Solutions (CLICKS) was established in 2012 as a boutique training and consultancy firm supporting the healthy growth and development of the Higher Education sector in the Arab region through providing training services; offering fit-for-purpose consultancy services; developing relevant and innovative knowledge solutions and providing guidance and support in a wide range of areas in line with its five core areas of expertise. Over the years, the center expanded to cover multiple Non-Arab geographies in Africa and Asia. During the past eight years, CLICKS has consulted for more than 140 Higher Education.

Institutions and has trained, through its public and 'In-House' services, nearly 6000 Higher Education professionals from over 40 countries. In addition, CLICKS has partnered with several international organizations and associations including AUF-Moyen Orient, The Arab Association of Universities, The Association of Afghan Private Universities, the UK QAA, The European QA Agency among others.

Services Include:

- ◆ Public and 'In-house' Training Programs
- ◆ Consultancy Services
- ◆ Coaching and Mentoring
- ◆ Summer Leadership Institutes
- ◆ Conferences and Networking Events
- ◆ R&D and Research Activities



Contact For Registrations

To register in the webinar, please email Cynthia Al Feghaly Zaarour at cynthia.zaarour@auf.org prior to the 21st November, 2021 as limited seats are available and based on first come first served

<https://www.auf.org/moyen-orient/>