BRING YOUR FORUMS BACK TO LIFE!

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A dormant discussion forum is a missed opportunity to enhance a course and to gain an understanding of the students' perspectives. This wasted space can be revitalized through numerous engagement techniques. This session will cover the ways in which interface design, meaningful feedback, and student investment have the power to attract attention and support retention. By dedicating time and energy toward revamping course discussion forums, professors and instructional designers are opening the floor to a more communicative classroom experience.

For many exclusively online courses, the discussion forum is the only place where students interact with the professor or each other. They deserve to be a part of a thriving set of discussion threads that support and add value to the content of the course. Often, course developers consider the discussion forum to be an afterthought since the content of the forum is thought to be defined by the interaction of the students. However, this session details how the livelihood of a discussion forum is actually the responsibility of the facilitator. This vital part of building an online community has been lacking for far too long. Be a part of this session and leave with actionable tips that can immediately be used in courses of all kinds.