

# Strategies for Creating a Positive Video Conference (a.k.a. CODEC) Classroom Experience



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**SPECIAL THANKS TO LUKE HAMMANN,  
MY FORMER ELECTRONIC CLASSROOM FACILITATOR!**

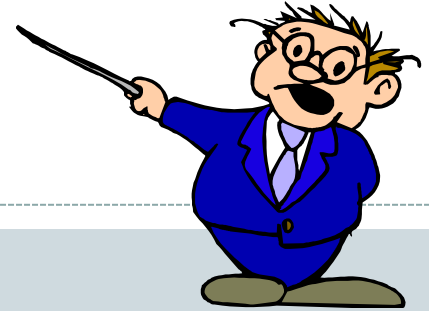


# Workshop Agenda



- What Is CODEC?
- Lessons Learned From Using CODEC
  - From A Professor
  - From An Electronic Classroom Facilitator (ECF) and Student
- Ideas for Creating Positive CODEC Experience
  - From A Professor
  - From An Electronic Classroom Facilitator (ECF) and Student
- Future of CODEC
- Questions/Answers

# What Is CODEC?



- **CODEC** is software that is used to **CO**mpress or **DE**compress a digital media file, such as a song or video.
  - Consists of two components: an encoder and a decoder. The encoder performs the compression (encoding) function and the decoder performs the decompression (decoding) function. It is just part of the process involved in the transmission of digital data during a video conference.
- WIU began offering video conference classes in the Spring 1993 semester.

# Lessons Learned From Using CODEC: Professor Perspective

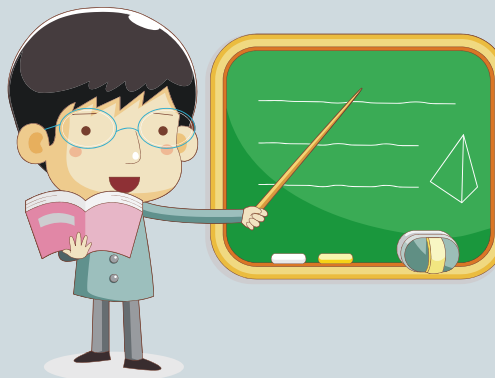


- Images/slides on screen are blurry for students at remote location
- Cannot fully see students
  - Students appear blurry and small
  - Camera cannot zoom out to show all students
  - View of students in remote location may be in back of the room
  - Texting in class and nonparticipation is a problem
- Cannot fully hear comments made
- Technology may fail
- Must send handouts, exams, etc. to Instructional Technology in advance of class
- Posting too much on WesternOnline is problematic
- Student evaluations are lower at remote location



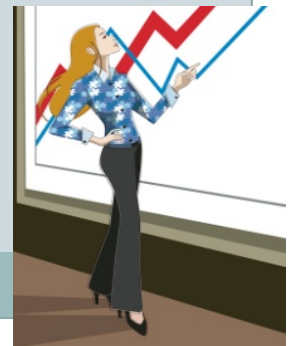
# Lessons Learned From Using CODEC: ECF and Student Perspective

- Simplicity is key
- The microphone hears everything
  - The smallest of actions can breakdown communication
- Break the ice with students
- Encourage communication on the non-instructor side



# Ideas for Creating Positive CODEC Experience: Professor Perspective

- Alternate teaching at each campus location if possible
- Exchange contact/phone information with Electronic Classroom Facilitator
- Make students sit close together, within camera view
- Use some device for students at remote location to get your attention (i.e., WIU paddle fan, foam finger, bell)
- Distribute list of student names (from both locations) and ask everyone to use it throughout the semester
- Use language to inspire inclusivity (i.e., “our class” not “Macomb and QC”)
- Survey students at beginning and middle of semester to gather suggestions for improvements – keep the lines of communication open
- Post material on WesternOnline, especially slides
- Arrange camera view to show Professor with slides behind Professor
- Do not leave camera on slide view only for entire class session
- Toggle between slides and view of entire class at both locations to encourage discussion and participation
- Develop assignments with remote location in mind (i.e., teams give presentations at each location)
- Arrange to have guest speakers at both locations
- Others?



# Ideas for Creating Positive CODEC Experience: ECF and Student Perspective

- Have both locations experience the same thing
  - If using a DVD, alternate origin points
- Minimize instructor movement
- The microphone hears everything!
- Instructor should not be offended if they are interrupted
- Students should not be afraid to interrupt
  - If possible, make this clear in the beginning of the semester
- Smaller classes are the best (8 – 12)



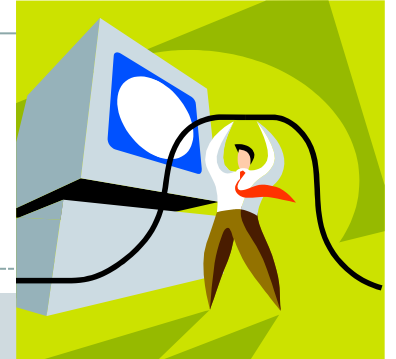
# Future of CODEC



- Classroom technology is progressive and ever changing.
  - As we upgrade an electronic classroom or complete a new electronic classroom, new technology is incorporated into the standard electronic classroom equipment.
  - These changes are directed by the needs of the users as well as advances in technology.
  - We are currently building seven new electronic classrooms in Memorial Hall that will include SMART tools (as well as some at the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus) in addition to the current standard set-up used in many of the recently upgraded electronic classrooms.



# Questions/Answers?



***Thank you!***

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