Community of Practice

A Community of Practice (CoP) straddles the line between virtual and face-to-face communities. It needs to be partially vitual, because similar practitioners work in different locations. But it also needs to be partially face-to-face, because that is the best way to energize and bind organizations. So day-to-day activities of the CoP will largely be virtual, but the more there are face-to-face CoP activities like conferences, workshops, meetups, etc. the more vibrant the CoP will be.

To bootstrap a CoP for CFA and its partners, the recommended process is:

* Identify a core geographical area where potential CoP members can physically meet.
* Schedule a launch meeting
* Get the initial members to set up provisional governance and help devise the next round of outreach and meetings.

The long-term viability of the CoP will require it to provide tangible benefits to its members. By tangible we mean things the CoP members can use in their face-to-face communities with students, family, friends and colleagues. Such tangible benefits include:

* Jobs and other funding opportunities
* Training and upskilling opportunities
* Certification opportunities
* Value-added social networking
* Travel and conference opportunities
* Speaking and publicity opportunities
* Access to employers for faculty and students