Introduction

It is a pleasure to write this introduction for so timely a textbook. Online communities have advanced in the larger society through social networks such as Pinterest, Facebook, and Twitter. This means that building online communities in higher education, and doing so collaboratively, is an idea that is particularly timely and relevant. This book provides discussion and analysis of the practical use of technology in promoting a collaborative teaching and learning experience. It is critical that educators utilize the collaborative tools available to foster an increased knowledge of teaching and learning in virtual settings. This critical text provides educators and administrators insightful information on promoting student success and increasing communication in the online classroom. Technology offers the opportunity to promote such increased communication and collaboration if we are open to change and the use of technological tools that truly enhance teaching and learning. The chapters presented in this book highlight the critical importance of staying connected in an online environment. Key areas include:

- Global perspectives of authors from diverse countries.
- Practical applications of the use of emerging technologies to promote collaboration and communication.
- New ways to apply social media for promoting relationships.
- Descriptions of communication challenges faced in online communities and ways to overcome some of these challenges.
- Strategies that will assist faculty members, administrators, and other higher education employees to understand collaboration.

If you are looking for a resource to assist you in understanding today’s online communities, this book is sure to please. The book provides valuable information that will not only enhance teaching and learning, but promote student success in the online classroom and beyond.

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