**Engaging Online Students - Susan Garrity**

The most important way to engage online students is to connect with students on a personal level, using the following techniques:

1. Solid discussion forums requirements that get students to talk, allow them to delve more deeply into the content
2. Live office hours to provide personal assistance
3. Adobe Connect
4. Online chats
5. Make content engaging and fun
6. Provide a wide variety of learning activities
7. Discover their interests and link content to them
8. Schedule a series of personal appointments (touch points) throughout the course via phone, in-person or Skype
9. Use videos to model or demonstrate techniques, not lecture
10. Develop activities where students do the work and apply concepts
11. Provide recorded instructions
12. Incorporate synchronous activities
13. Personalize their online experience through:
    1. Personal introductions
    2. Providing prompt, personal feedback
    3. Include pictures of themselves or things they care about (animals, children, hobbies, etc.)
    4. Use SHORT video intros of instructor and/or students
14. Dispel the myths that online learning is easy or boring and help them develop greater comfort with technology by:
    1. Managing their expectations
    2. Providing online orientations
    3. Sample online courses
    4. Construct pre-requisite surveys to elicit their understanding, goals and expectations
15. Hybrid courses are the optimum way to engage students