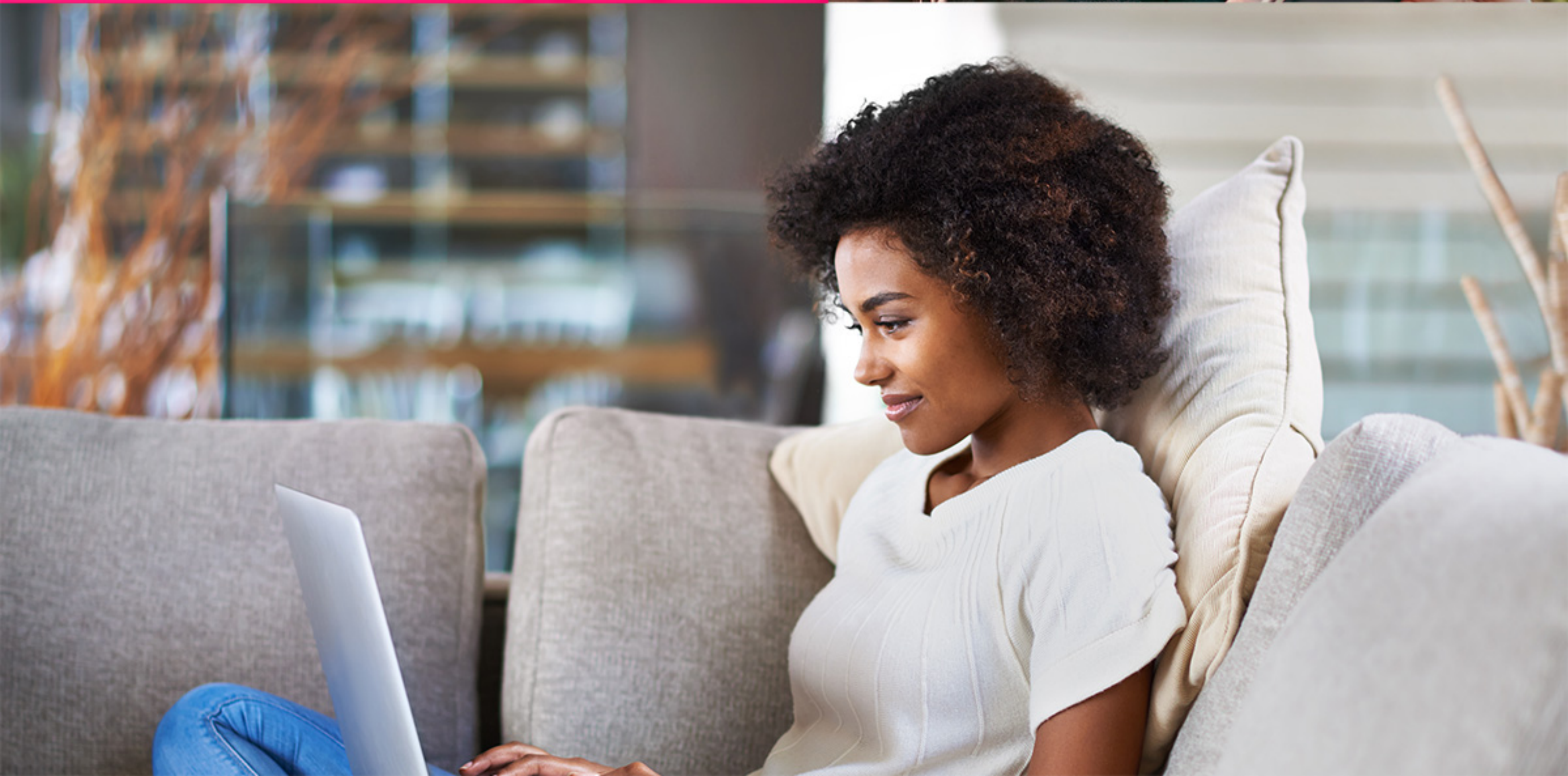


Blackboard
COLLABORATE™

Driving Student Success in the Online Classroom

How to create meaningful
student engagement in an
online classroom environment.

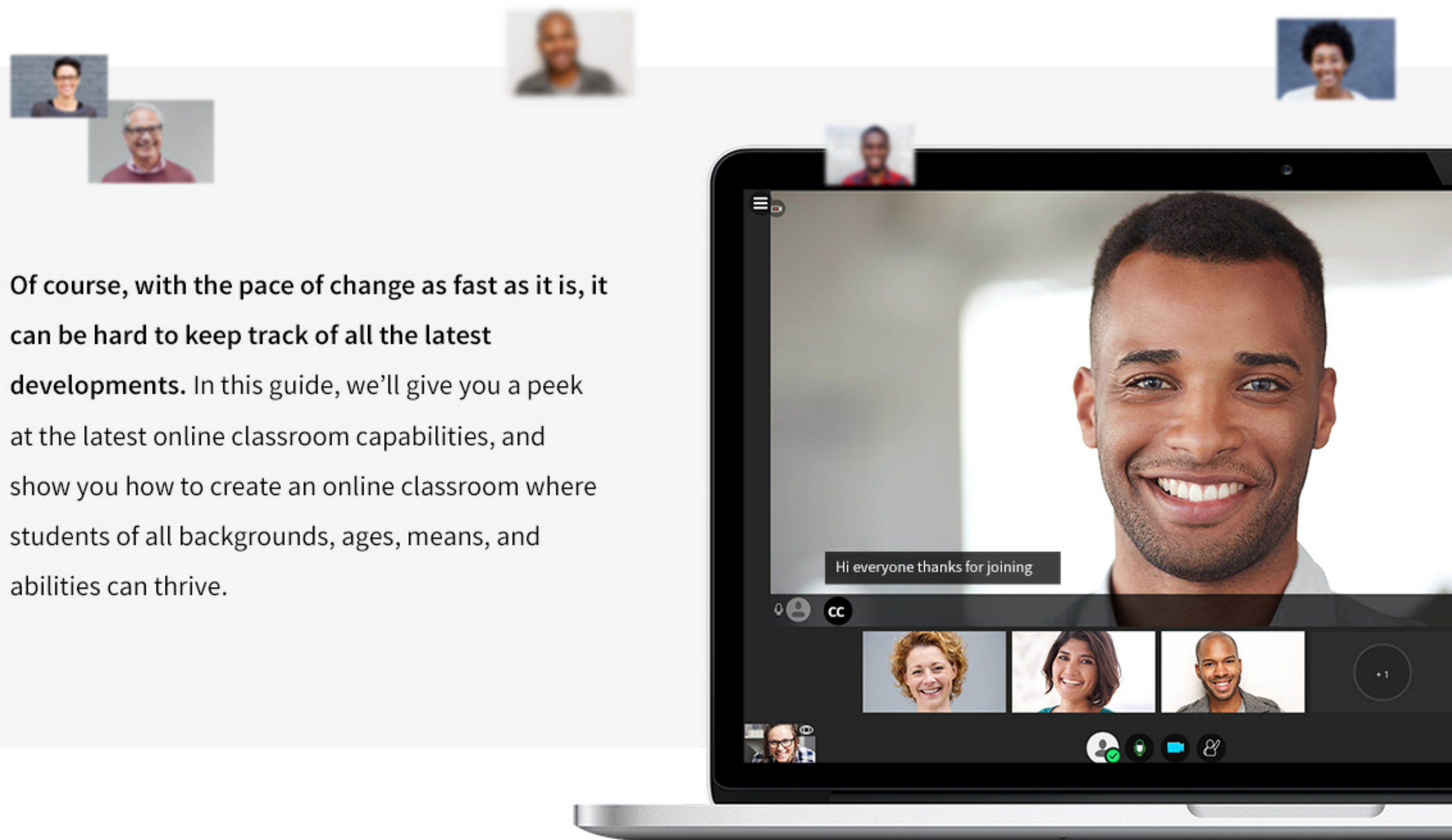


Log in to the next generation of online classrooms.

Once there was a time when online learning brought to mind confusing message boards, wonky chat rooms, and presentations that had little to no chance of downloading properly.

Today's online classrooms are robust, built to meet the expectations of a new generation of learners. Students are collaborating across borders and time zones; faculty have the tools and technologies they need to create rich, multi-dimensional learning experiences. The online classroom has rapidly gone from being the little sibling of ye olde brick and mortar classroom to a beacon of learning in its own right—one that opens up new possibilities to connect with students and, even better, can positively influence student outcomes.

Of course, with the pace of change as fast as it is, it can be hard to keep track of all the latest developments. In this guide, we'll give you a peek at the latest online classroom capabilities, and show you how to create an online classroom where students of all backgrounds, ages, means, and abilities can thrive.



The state of online learning.

Or, why online classroom attendance is only growing.

1 in 4

students take 1 distance learning course.

Distance learning is on the rise.

More than 1 in 4 students now take at least 1 distance education course.¹

30%

increase of online students from 2011-2015

Students and schools are investing in online learning.

Between 2011 and 2015, the online student headcount increased by 30%, while the number of online programs offered by 2-year and 4-year universities increased by 110%.²

81%

use a mobile device for study.

Student expectations are changing.

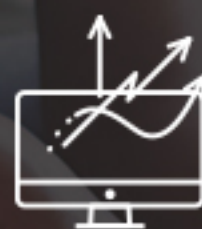
81% of today's college students use a mobile device to study.³

The National Center for Education Statistics expects that students age 25 and older will account for **43%** of students by 2020.⁴ **25%** of students go to school and work full time, and another **27%** work part time. Less than half, **48%**, are not employed.⁵ In 2012, **11%** of students reported having a disability.⁶

From
"Classroom" to



Virtual Schools



MOOCs



Flipped Classrooms



Hybrid Learning

The line between the online classroom and the traditional classroom is blurring.

"The division between online and on campus is rapidly disappearing, and, at some institutions, technology has penetrated the classroom so deeply that the distinction will soon be obsolete."

- Robert Ubell, Vice Dean of Online Learning at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering⁷

1. Online Learning Consortium, 2015 Online Report Card. <https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/read/online-report-card-tracking-online-education-united-states-2015/> 2. Eduventures, A New Normal for Online Learning...and OPMs. <http://www.eduventures.com/2017/01/new-normal-online-learning-opms/> 3. Wainhouse Research, Can a Learner-first Focus Help Higher Education? 4. NBC News, Back to School: Older Students on the Rise in College Classrooms <http://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/back-school-older-students-rise-college-classrooms-n191246> 5. United States Census Bureau, 2013. 6. National Center for Education Statistics. <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60> 7. Inside Higher Ed, Why Faculty Still Don't Want to Teach Online. <https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2016/12/13/advice-faculty-members-about-overcoming-resistance-teaching-online-essay>



The possibilities of the online classroom are greater than ever before for you and your students.

The possibilities of the online classroom are greater than ever before.

The online learning revolution has led to the creation of online classrooms that not only support, but enhance, traditional teaching methods. With the right mix of technology and creativity, you can:



Open your classroom up to the world.

With an online classroom that works anywhere and on any device, you can reach students who may not have had a seat in a traditional classroom. Think: parents working on a second degree who can't make it to campus for class, students halfway across the country (or the world), and students with special needs that couldn't be met without the assistance of dedicated staff in a traditional classroom.



Create deeper connections with students.

No longer is learning limited to an hour of class three times a week. Online classrooms enhance the physical classroom by making resources available outside of classroom hours, while making it easier for you to support individual student preferences and circumstances.



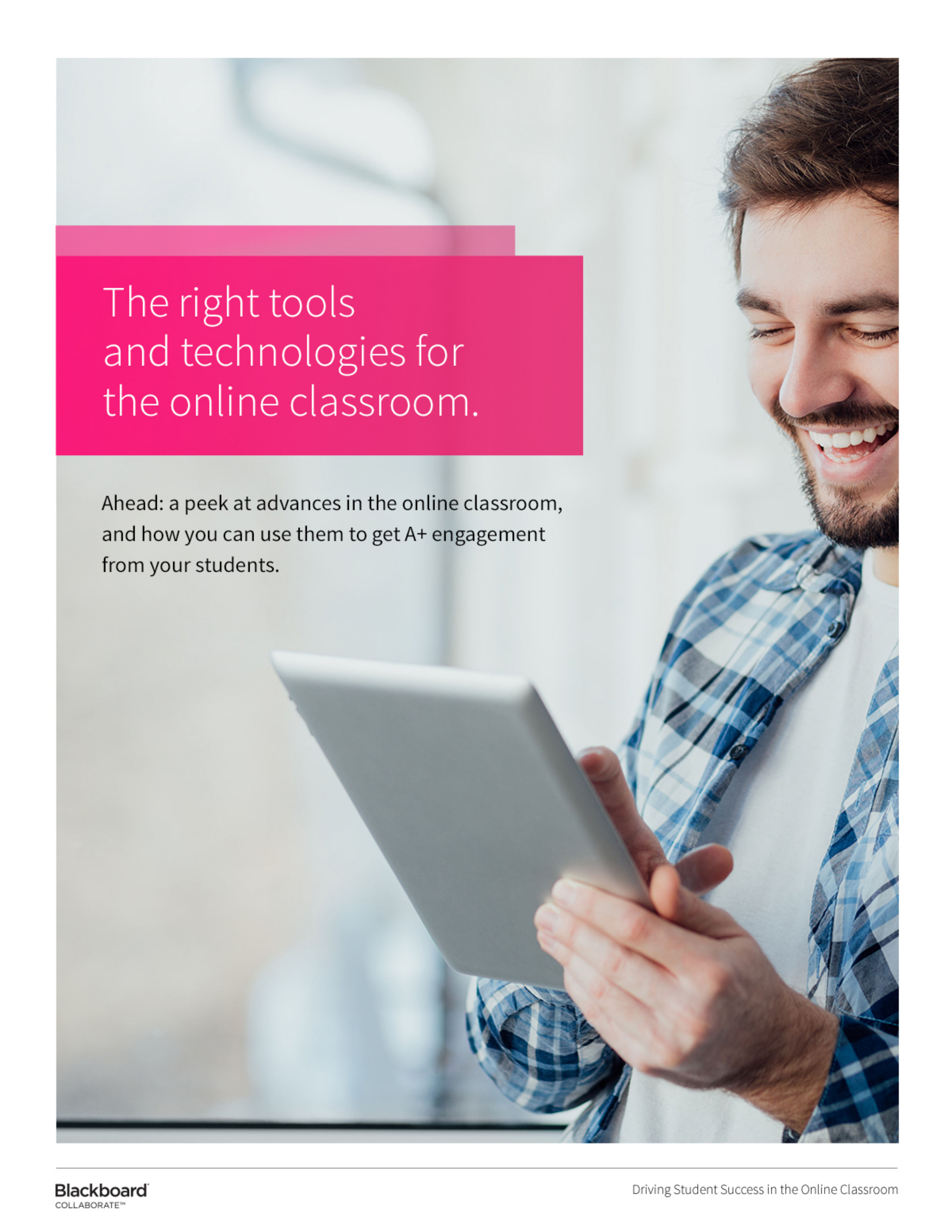
Do more of what you love.

At the most basic level, online classrooms provide for greater flexibility by allowing you to teach from anywhere. But with the best online classrooms, that's just the beginning. New options provide all the tools you need to manage your time and resources more efficiently, so you can focus on what you love: teaching.



Achieve better student outcomes.

Done right, an online classroom will empower you to engage students online and on campus more effectively, leading to happier students... and better outcomes.

A close-up photograph of a young man with dark hair and a beard, smiling warmly as he looks at a silver tablet computer he is holding with both hands. He is wearing a blue and white plaid button-down shirt over a white t-shirt. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting, possibly a classroom or office. A pink graphic overlay is positioned on the left side of the image, containing text.


The right tools and technologies for the online classroom.

Ahead: a peek at advances in the online classroom,
and how you can use them to get A+ engagement
from your students.

Raise your digital hand.


New technologies bring the traditional classroom experience to online students in one click.

With continued advances in the field of online learning, teachers are no longer limited to one-way slide presentations and a message board. New technologies replicate the traditional learning experience, and mimic the essential social elements of the traditional classroom that are so critical to student outcomes.



» **Face-to-face communication**
Live chat and video conferencing

It used to be that the lack of face-to-face communication in online learning left students feeling disengaged from their professors and each other. Today's online classrooms feature live chat and video conferencing features that recreate the live classroom experience, so students feel accountable and invested.



» **In-class participation**
Digital hand raising

Conference calls are great...until everyone starts talking over each other. Luckily, video conferencing technologies designed specifically for education make managing and encouraging in-class participation simple, with features such as digital hand raising.

“Implementing methods to increase social presence can translate virtual experiences into tangible connections for online students.”

- Inside Higher Ed, March 2017¹

1. Inside Higher Ed, 4 Expert Strategies for Designing an Online Course <https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/advice/2017/03/15/4-expert-strategies-designing-online-course>



» **Group work**
Online breakout sessions

Group work is a time-honored hallmark of curriculums everywhere, and for good reason. Collaboration provides a hands-on learning experience and gives students the opportunity to learn from each other. Now it's possible for online teachers to get in on the fun too, with technologies that support spontaneous online breakout sessions, small group chat, and even interactive whiteboards.



» **Presentations**
Instant file and screen-sharing

Make presentations possible in your online classroom with drag-and-drop file sharing and instant screen sharing. More convenient than email and infinitely less intimidating than standing at the podium, file- and screen-sharing functionality mean you and your students can share Powerpoints, Word documents, or web browsers with each other seamlessly.

Online classroom, real world.

How do you teach a language online?

This was the question an Arabic language professor at Northern Virginia Community College, asked himself after launching an online course. Learning Arabic is hard enough as it is, but doing so through static presentations and online language labs was making it nearly impossible for his students and left both parties feeling disconnected. Looking for a solution, he upgraded his online classroom to one that had a recording feature. His students responded positively, and the Arabic professor began recording all of his lectures.

"Those videos increased the (students') interaction with me and with their classmates through their feedback. I am planning to use this technique in my face-to-face classes too."



Fresh ways to engage.

Online classrooms bring new dimensions to teaching.

Online classrooms aren't just for distance courses. With the rise of blended and flipped teaching methods, online classrooms are augmenting traditional teaching in exciting ways on (and off) campus.

Check 'Yes' for more in-class participation.

In-class participation gets a boost from technologies like real-time polling, which allows for more nuanced participation than “raise your hand if you agree”. Start off with an engaged and invested class to open the door to diverse opinions and lively discussions.

Say goodbye to technical difficulties.

How many times in your career have you had an ancient projector derail your best laid class plans? Most online classrooms these days allow you to share links, documents, and other resources with students directly, eliminating the need for old-fashioned technology and making it possible for students to reference all classroom materials in one place.

Make the most of class time.

Drawing on the concepts that have made flipped learning so popular, new online classroom technologies make it easy for professors to record lectures ahead of time. Faculty can then save valuable class time for more collaborative activities, like Q&A sessions or group work. Recording lectures can also better accommodate absent students, as professors can save them to any course materials folders.

Click for an inclusive classroom.

In the past, making classrooms accessible was costly and only happened on a case-by-case basis. Now, with readily available technologies like closed captioning, recording, screen readers, and keyboard navigation, students with learning disabilities can get the assistance they need without having to ask, making for a more inclusive classroom—and helping you to reach more students.

Online classroom, real world.

University of Utah makes it personal—with technology.


Most professors agree that face-to-face and real-time communication offers the best support to students, but few universities promote the use of synchronous communication technologies as a complement to traditional teaching. By adding synchronous components to online and hybrid courses, the University of Utah reduced attrition rates to 8.5% (compared to 16.5% for face-to-face classes). They also found that students who reviewed archived courses with audio components achieved grades that were 24% higher than those who reviewed course content composed of un-annotated PowerPoint slides.¹



1. Blackboard, 5 Ways Synchronous Collaboration Will Change Your Learning Experience for the Better

Invite your students to go global.

Today's online classrooms support one-click connections even from low-bandwidth areas, so you can reach students around the world without worrying about lag times and other technical interruptions.



Online classroom, real world.

How an online classroom can change the world.

LINGOs is a global non-profit that supports non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in strengthening the capabilities of staff around the world, often through training and education. The nature of the work means LINGOs must deal with strict budgets and learners scattered across far-flung geographies that sometimes lack basic infrastructure. In the past, this greatly limited the scope of their work, but with the use of a modern online classroom LINGOs now reaches tens of thousands of learners around the world, more efficiently and more effectively. Just a few of the benefits? Classes are now spread over time rather than in 4-5 day sessions, NGO employees are collaborating with each other in and out of class, and learners are able to improve essential skills without taking time off from critical projects.

Your virtual office.

Make the online classroom work for you outside of class hours.

You know better than anyone that what happens in class is only 10% of the job. There are office hours to be had, classes to prepare, papers to grade...the list goes on and on. The right online classroom can help you make the most of your time before, during, and after class hours.

Embrace virtual office hours.

Office hours provide important opportunities for students to ask questions, review assignments, and generally connect with their teachers, but can be challenging to uphold in a time when faculty course loads are growing and teachers often find themselves juggling multiple roles. So, why not use your online classroom to hold virtual office hours? By holding virtual office hours, you can be more accessible to students while building necessary flexibility into your schedule.

Collaborate with co-workers.

With everyone so busy these days, it can be difficult to get co-workers in a room to collaborate, but the tools designed to help you better connect with students can also help you connect with your colleagues. Hold a meeting using live video conferencing or chat, share your syllabus to the group with a click, or brainstorm together with virtual whiteboarding.

Use your
online classroom
for:



Virtual classes



Office hours



Tutoring and
mentoring sessions



Departmental
meetings



Professional
development

Take your class on the road... from your desk.

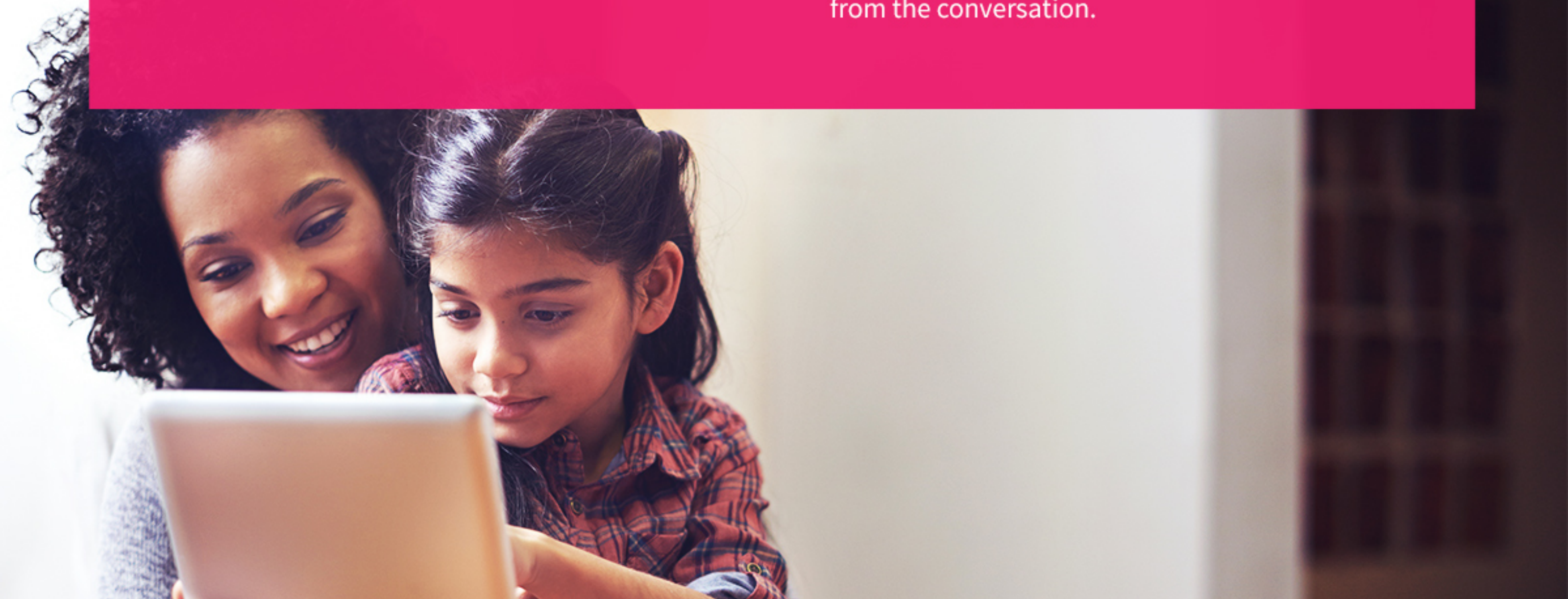
Traditional and adjunct professors alike will appreciate the power to teach from anywhere, not only for the added convenience, but for the career opportunities. With the support of the right online classroom, you can explore teaching opportunities that may have previously been off-limits due to geographical or time limitations.

Online classroom, real world.

The case for virtual office hours.

While there's certainly no need to do away with traditional office hours completely, it's becoming clear that both professors and students have a lot to gain from embracing the practice of virtual office hours. For one, students and professors can meet anywhere, free of the need to be at the same physical location. This not only encourages more students to attend, but also means professors have the flexibility to hold office hours outside of the traditional 9-5 if they choose (for instance, in the evening, when students are more likely to be working on assignments).

Then there's the fact that virtual office hours using live chat or video conferencing naturally lend themselves to a more open environment than an office with a closed door. In an environment such as this, students are able to listen to and learn from each other's questions, and, in turn, professors are saved from having to answer the same question several times. Finally, there is the option to archive or record virtual office hours. When this is done, students in attendance can refer back to discussions at their leisure, while those who may have wanted to attend but couldn't can still benefit from the conversation.



Ready for the next step?

Realize the possibilities of the online classroom with Blackboard Collaborate: the one-click, virtual classroom.

Browser-based, accessible, and intuitive, Blackboard Collaborate makes it easier than ever to connect with and engage your students, no matter where they are.

One click to the classroom.

Browser-based technology means there's nothing to download, so you and your students are free to focus on interaction and engagement, rather than wrangling technology.

Hear every student.

Deepen your connection to your students and encourage class participation with features like digital hand raising, polling, and breakout groups.

Accessible to everyone.

Live closed captioning, screen reader support, keyboard navigation, a high-contrast color palette, and the power to record class creates a more inclusive classroom environment.

Capture every conversation.

Effortless recording makes it easy for students to refer back to lectures or class discussions, and supports flipped or blended teaching methods.

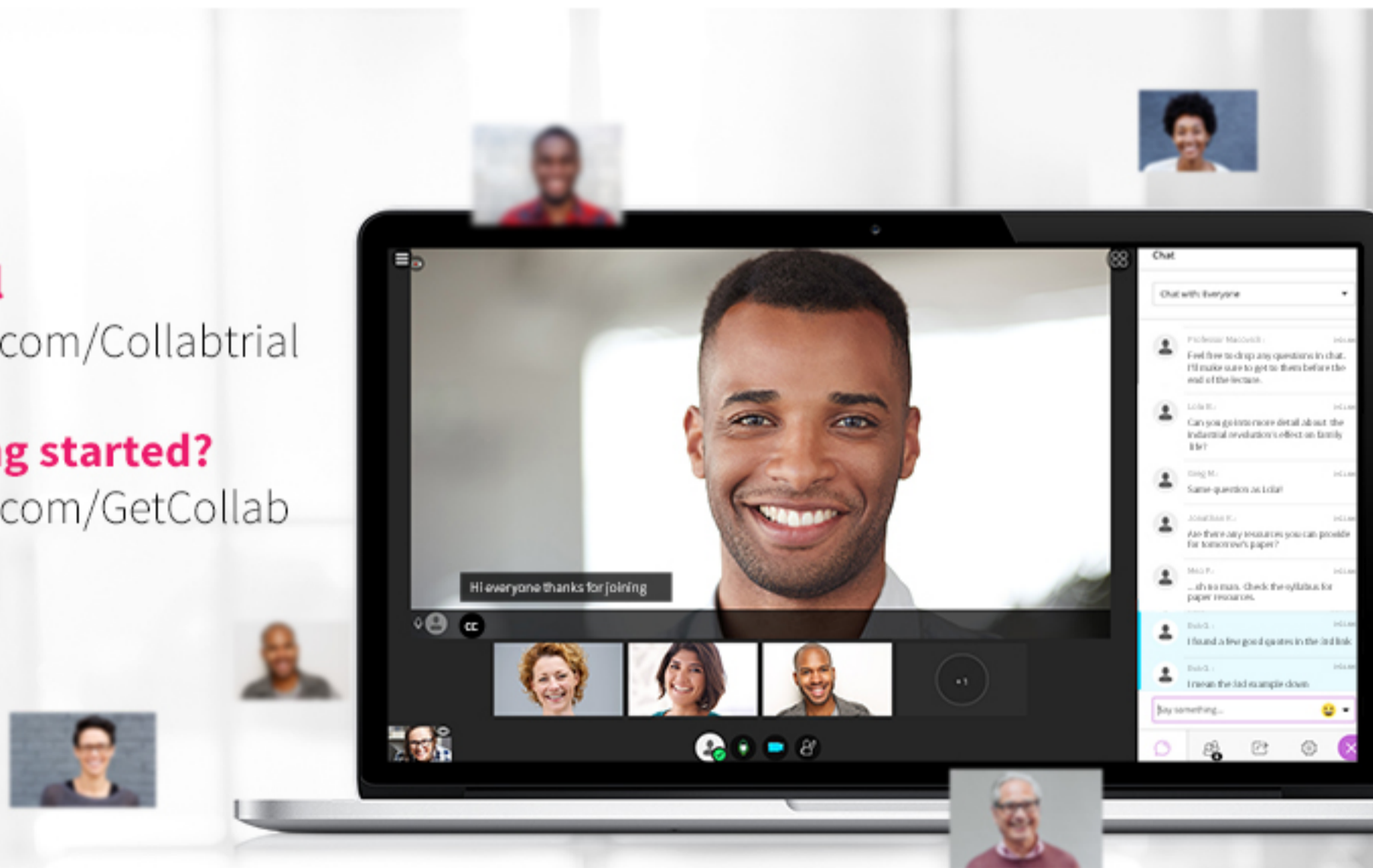


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