**Exemplary Teaching with Tech – Inspired by 2020 Digital Learning Award Submissions**

While reading over submissions for the 2020 Digital Learning Award, our selection committee quickly realized the great potential of teaching with tech, especially with our recent shift to online-only coursework. The Digital Learning Award, established in partnership between WVU and the West Virginia Public Education Collaborative in 2019, spotlights innovative uses of tech across all WVU campuses. We were impressed with many of the submissions we received this year and felt it would be valuable to share more information with our WVU community.

Digital Learning Award applicants reinforced the idea that it’s not the type of technology you use that’s most important; rather, it’s how well you use it. All our best submissions showed off great ways to harness tech that’s already right at our fingertips.

**Share a tech toolbox.**

Some award applicants gave their students an extra opportunity to excel by creating a “tech toolbox” and sharing technology that they find helpful. Giving students a list of tech tools including websites, apps, and softwares that they can harness in class or labs is a great way to expose them to new resources and ways of doing things. Even better? Boost collaboration and encourage students to share their own favorite tools with each other.

**Get social.**

One applicant had the bright idea to include social media in her curriculum, getting her students online and encouraging them to post in a professional setting. Incorporating social media like Twitter can help to make a course more interesting and interactive. Students will be able to make deeper connections with their classmates, members of the community, and other professionals in the field.

**Spark vibrant discussions with VoiceThread.**

Several applicants shared that VoiceThread has helped them to make courses more interactive and engaging by allowing students to speak with each other online. VoiceThread, which can be integrated into eCampus, allows students to communicate with microphones, webcams, text, phones, or audio file uploads. Collaborate Ultra, a video conferencing tool, is also available to connect as a class or host digital office hours. Luckily, WVU already offers guidelines on [VoiceThread](https://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/faculty-resources/voicethread) and [Collaborate Ultra](https://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/faculty-resources/collaborate-ultra) setup and best practices online.

**Move your lab online.**

One award applicant turned a struggle to teach without a physical lab space into an opportunity to innovate using Labster. With virtual tools like Labster, faculty can take hands-on lab courses online. Labster offers 133 different lab simulations right now and is a great way to make virtual learning into a fun, interactive experience. Students will have no problem completing a microbiology, chemistry, or physics lab from the comfort of their couch.