Communities of Practice

Bringing Disparate Voices to Concerted Action
UMN Community of Practice

A Community of Practice (CoP) invites the community to “participate in a discussion” resulting in engaged, consensus-informed actions.
fCoP? iCoP? Which to Use?

f(ormal)CoP: Useful when a specific charge exists, and the community will produce a result by a specific end date.

i(nformal)CoP: Useful when there is interest around a particular topic (e.g., IT), but there is no specific charge, and the community has no end date.
Three Key Principles

Channel community ideas and energy into concerted action

Have visible ownership and demonstrate importance to the campus or system

Set a finite time frame for delivering actionable items with follow-up
Consider Your Campus Culture *

What are your current strengths?
What are your current barriers?
How can you use your strengths to mitigate the barriers within the context of a CoP?
Relate to an fCoP Experience *

Identify a current charge you have
Look at the administrative, political, and social lenses in your culture
How could this be different if you did this as an fCoP?
Thank You!

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