The Project Management App Trello in Online Learning in Higher Education

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According to a study done by the Babson Research Group (Allen & Seaman, 2018), the study has revealed that distance education continues to grow every year. Is there a difference between online learning and distance learning? Pop (2017) stated the critical piece to online learning is the use of technology to deliver the experience, while distant learning is often used interchangeably with the term online education, with its first introduction, the word "distant learning" was referring to a group of students who wanted to study at other universities. I will use both words interchangeably. Many postsecondary institutions are racing to develop online courses to catch up with the momentum of the current learning trend. Universities are marketing the online classes as an alternative option to finish pursuing your degree with the convenience and flexibility built within the courses. Students who are now going through the traditional path of attending a physical location are offered the same opportunity to give it a try.

Online learning has gained traction and acceptance since academic leaders polled in the first round around 2003 and another round of polling done in 2011 (Allen & Seaman, 2011, p. 5) found evidence that the perception hasn't shifted or made a significant difference from the initial study. Many educators felt that the learning outcomes for online education were "as good as or even better" (Allen, Seaman, Poulin, & Straut, 2016, p. 29) than those compare to those students that are attending at a physical location. There are still a small set of educators that felt a physical presence offers a much better experience and this learning environment carries a higher rate of return and value for students.

Allen and Seaman (2012) stated that online education is a key and long-term strategy reported by many of higher education institutions. Here lies the critical test, how can online learning keep this momentum growing and avoid the pitfall of deflection from current students who are enrolled. One primary metric is to evaluate the overall experience as they navigate

throughout the courses, noting the plus and minus and collecting suggestion and feedback for improvement. One highlights the benefit of the physical interaction when working on group projects, whereas online platform faces the big hurdle and the difficulty to arrange and to pull it off the enhanced experience. I do not see the barrier since many developers have been working to come up with various solutions to correct the issue. Trello is one of the project management apps where our problem becomes nonexistent, and many users have reviewed the app as a positive overall experience ("Trello Reviews: Overview, Pricing and Features – FinancesOnline.com," 2018).

Trello gives the project manager the ability to create variations of to do lists, assigns individuals to the tasks, automatic set up reminders for due dates and a convenient way to share materials across the platform with other members, effortlessly connecting with other apps like Google Chat. The portal is user-friendly and with an easy to navigate layout; an essential design element pointed out by Norman (2013). Trello is an exceptional value for students to collaborate on team projects where physical meetups are not possible. Our learning does not stop because of this barrier; with this tool, we carry on and move forward with the project.

In conclusion, let us include Trello to the list of apps which will become an early adopter by educators, some other well-known early adopters included Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram are pointed out by Monreal (2015). With all the new promising tools coming out shortly, online learning is here to stay and to capture a more significant portion of learners looking to enhance their knowledge.

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