Developing a Culture of Caring in Classrooms: Best Practices During a Global Pandemic and Beyond

Why create an intentionally supportive classroom environment?

- Student stress = negative academic outcomes
- Stress impacts retention
- COVID-19, US reckoning with racial violence created more stress
- Marginalized students report increased impact: students of color, LGBTQ+, first generation

Strategies

- Allow a 2-day grace period on all assignments
- Acknowledge current events
- Connect with students
- Intentional space for student connection
- Choices in course assessments/engagement
- Collaborate with students to build course content
- Invite students to share pronunciation of names and pronouns
- Demonstrate accurate naming and terminology
- Recognize academic needs and accommodations

Necessary boundaries

- Know your role and the role of others on campus to support students
- Learn a warm handoff technique

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