

The quote I selected from the slides is “remember that productivity is in the eye of the beholder.” I’m guessing the means that I don’t have to do anything to get an “A” in this class as long as I feel I have been productive.

For the sake of all of those who forked out the cash to attend this presentation at the Blackboard AsiaPacific Users Conference, I hope the actual presentation was more informative than were the slides by themselves. I do disagree with the statement “most institutions and faculties are beginning to realize the power behind fostering communities of learners and communities of practice,” first of all “most institutions and faculties” is kind of ambiguous isn’t it? I’d like to see their empirical data to back that statement. Second, every student I have ever questioned about discussion board participation tells me how much they hate them. My experience as an online teacher and as an online student is that most students post the bare minimum necessary to get a grade for the assignment. Based on what I have read so far regarding this course, I am hoping to see some proof and learn some techniques that will change my opinion of what makes an online community of learners. I’m also wondering if I become a community organizer can I too become President of the United States? Certainly social networking seems to be all the rage these days, personally I don’t have much time for it, but if it is possible to translate that enthusiasm that people have for the social networking sites into learning communities then it would most certainly create a synergy that would help our populace become more literate and perhaps better educated, more creative and more productive as well. As far as my own efforts are concerned, I’ve never thought of it as “taking part in a community of learning,” but I do try and help out where I can and when asked to do so. Finally, I find it humorous that someone has actually trademarked “Networked Learning Environment,” it sounds to me like a slogan they came up with at Blackboard in an effort to sell more product. I may sound like a cynic, but really I am have an open-mind towards this subject and I’m interested to see where this course takes us.