



## TEACHING TIP OF THE MONTH

**Date: September 2021**

**Theme: Connecting with Your Students**

**Tip 1:** Since attendance is very important in all SRT courses, taking attendance can be time-consuming. We need to keep a record of students who attend our daily lectures and class meeting. Also, most DL courses have 1-2 virtual meetings that require taking attendance. Blackboard has a tool called ATTENDANCE. Using this tool is an excellent way to keep a record of students who are present and those who are absent. You can even mark those who are late. The record will show under the Grade Center without any points, but just a checkmark. Watch this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEMDub6IG68>

**Tip 2:** It is a good practice to have students share how they are doing each class to make sure everyone is fine. When taking the attendance, or after taking it, ask students to share with you about how they are doing and if there is anything that they would like to share with you and their classmates. I find this to be very useful. Even those who are relatively quiet do come out and share about their well-being and interesting things happening in their lives. I give each student 20-30 seconds. This creates a strong sense of community in the class, and it helps me to reach out to those who need help.

For information about these tips, contact: [Nader.Chaaban@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Nader.Chaaban@montgomerycollege.edu)

### **More Info on Teaching Tips**

“Teaching Tips of the Month” began as a project of Program for Active Learning in STEM (PALS) and Teaching to Increase Diversity and Equity in STEM (TIDES) grants. Many thanks to Ray Gonzales and Alla Webb, who served as Principal Investigators of the TIDES grants. You can view archived Teaching Tips of the Month on [The Hub](#). We welcome feedback and invite you to submit ideas for this publication to Angela Lanier, [angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:angela.lanier@montgomerycollege.edu)