

# Thermo Virtual Community of Practice (VCP)

## Session 1: Introduction to the Thermo-VCP

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John Chen  
California Polytechnic State University  
jchen24@calpoly.edu

Milo Koretsky  
Oregon State University  
milo.koretsky@oregonstate.edu

## Objectives

- Overview of the VCP Project
- Introduce the Thermo VCP Community Participants
- Have participants connect with their VCP team and come up with a team name
- Gain experience with Adobe Connect

## Tentative Agenda

- Getting connected: technology issues ~10 min
- Goals for the VCP and Project Background ~ 5 min
- Introductions ~ 25 min (group)
- Breakout: name teams ~ 10 min
- Next week's assignment ~ 10 min

## Getting Connected

- USB headset
- Desktop versus laptop
- Tour of the workspace and folders
  - Open Atrium (brief tour)
  - Adobe Connect

## Virtual Communities of Practice (VCP) Model (Russ Pimmel)

- Need for advancement in engineering education and effective methods of dissemination
- Current short-term, one-shot, face-to-face faculty workshops are inherently flawed and not scalable
- Learning communities and communities of practice offer an effective alternative
- Virtual approaches provide an effective, economical, and scalable approach without geographic constraints
- Engineering faculty will participate (that's us!)

## Goals for the VCP Project

- Effectively and efficiently manage time and expectations
- Work as a community to:
  - Share knowledge
  - Develop instructional strategies
  - Implement and evaluate approaches
- Identify VCP Best Practices

## About your thermo class ...

- How many students do you expect to enroll in your thermodynamics class in the fall?
 

Under 25	25-50	50-100	over 100
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- How many times have you taught it?
 

Never	1-3	4-7	More than 7
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- What disciplines do the students come from?
  - Mostly Mechanical Engineering
  - Mostly Chemical Engineering
  - A mix of Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering
  - Other

## Introductions – 45 seconds!

- Name and institution
- How many times taught Thermo and in what context (e.g., undergraduate mechanical engineering)
- What is one thing you hope to “take away” from the Thermo-VCP?

**Team Orange**



Ganesh  
Balasubramanian  
Iowa State



Jeff LaMack  
Milwaukee School  
of Engineering



Melissa Pasquinelli  
North Carolina State



Georg Pinggen  
Union



Nastaran Hashemi  
Iowa State

**Team Blue**



Nihad Dukhan  
Detroit Mercy



Calvin Li  
Villanova



Krishna Pakala  
Boise State



Hessam Taherian  
Alabama at Birmingham



Robert F Richards  
Washington State

**Team Red**



Jamie Canino  
Trine



Heather Dillon  
Portland



Edwin Wiggins  
Webb Institute



Joseph Tipton  
Evansville



Bilal El-Zahab  
Florida International

**Team Green**



Margot Vigeant  
Bucknell



John O'Connell  
Virginia



Zihua Xu  
Minnesota Duluth



Sapna Sarupina  
Clemson



Bernie van Wie  
Washington State

**Team Rainbow**



Sooby Bhattacharjee  
San Diego State



Ashland Brown  
Pacific



Betta Fisher  
Cornell



H. S. Udaykumar  
Iowa

**Team Cycle**



John Chen  
California Polytechnic



Milo Koretsky  
Oregon State



Sadi Carnot  
École Polytechnique

## Breakout Room Discussions

Instructions: In your team:

- Identify the element(s) that your team has in common
- Use the Notes feature and create a team name

## For Session 2: April 10, 2013

- Read “Applying Constructive Alignment to Outcomes- Based Teaching and Learning” John Biggs & Catherine Tang (What-is-CA-biggs-tang.pdf in OpenAtrium)
- Look through the syllabi of your other team members. Identify at least one thing you would like to steal!