

# “Research in Action” Podcast Instructor Guide

Use the following episode description, learning objectives, guiding questions and activity suggestions to more easily include “Research in Action” podcast episodes as a supplemental resource for your course.

## Podcast and Episode Information

“Research in Action” is a weekly podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines.

On this episode, Katie is joined by Dr. Sharla Berry, an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education at California Lutheran University. Her research explores education technology in K-20 contexts. She has published several peer-reviewed articles exploring how students and faculty cultivate learning communities in online programs. Dr. Berry also does research on the relationship between technology and college access. She is the author of *Degree for Free: How to Save Time and Money on Your College Education*.

*Segment One* [00:00-11:44] - In this segment, Sharla discusses some of her research on cultivating community online.

*Segment Two* [11:45-23:15] - In this segment, Sharla shares about her work on college access.

*Segment Three* [23:16-35:12]: In this segment, Sharla discusses the importance of having a critical perspective on technology.

Show notes and a transcript for this episode can be found at:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e175/>

## Learning Outcomes

By listening to this episode, students will be able to:

- Describe different ways to define community in online settings
- Discuss different challenges that students face regarding college access
- Discuss what it means to have a critical perspective about technology

## Guiding Questions for Listening

- What led Sharla Berry to research cultivating community online?
- How does Sharla Berry define community in her research?
- What research questions is Sharla Berry exploring when it comes to cultivating research online?
- Who are the different populations that Sharla Berry focuses on in her research?
- What kinds of qualitative methods is Sharla Berry using to explore her research questions?
- What are some of Sharla Berry’s findings about cultivating community online?
- What are some of the current challenges to college access that Sharla Berry describes?
- What resources does Sharla Berry recommend for students who want to learn more about college?
- According to Sharla Berry, what are some of the ways that technology can strengthen or maintain existing inequalities?

## Possible Activities

- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e175/>) and look at an additional resource that is linked in connection with this episode. Students can write a short review of that resource to share with their peers.
- Ask students to visit the show notes for this episode (<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e175/>) and post an additional resource connected to the content of the episode in the comments section.
- Have students share questions that are raised for them based on the content of this episode. What would they ask Sharla Berry if they could?

## Suggested Citation (APA, 6th edition)

Linder, K. (Producer/host). (2019, October 14). *Dr. Sharla Berry on Cultivating Community Online* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/research/podcast/e175/>

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## Notes

## About the Research in Action Podcast

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“Research in Action” (RIA) is a podcast about topics and issues related to research in higher education featuring experts across a range of disciplines. Episodes are posted weekly and include guest interviews and occasional solo episodes. Guests are from a range of higher education institutions and share their expertise on qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods as well as their personal experiences as researchers, research and writing practices, organizational and productivity strategies, and much more. Some weeks, bonus content will also be posted.

“Research in Action” is hosted by [Dr. Katie Linder](#), research director for Oregon State University Ecampus.

Visit the podcast website to view [show notes and transcripts for each episode](#), explore our [episode guide](#), learn more about how to [contact us](#), or [suggest a future guest or topic](#).

You may subscribe to the [“Research in Action” RSS feed](#) or access the podcast via [iTunes](#), [Soundcloud](#) or [Stitcher](#).

“Research in Action” is also listed on [MERLOT](#).

The “Research in Action” podcast is a resource funded by Oregon State University Ecampus, the university’s top-ranked online education provider.

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