

## **Cultivate a Community in the Classroom: Lead with Values, Vulnerability, and Gratitude**

By Rosario Lozada. 28 Perspectives 5 (2020).

**Article Categories:** Course Creation & Design; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Legal Research Instruction for 1Ls

**Keywords:** Course Design; Engagement; Learning; Legal Research Instruction; Motivation

### **Reviewer's Summary:**

In this article, Lozada describes the process of creating a learning community for a new class of law students. Lozada notes a number of benefits that a learning community provides for students, such as psychological safety, increased motivation to learn, and a sense of belonging in the classroom. The article highlights four practices that professors can engage in to foster the growth of a learning community: 1) respect individual names; 2) lead a class exercise in values and vulnerability; 3) show authenticity by sharing setbacks and sources of joy; and 4) express gratitude. Throughout the article, Lozada shares helpful details of her efforts to connect with students in her courses.

**Summarized by:** Timothy Gallina, SMU Dedman School of Law - Underwood Law Library, in 2021.