

# *A Why-To and a How-To* VIRTUAL CONFERENCES IN THE COVID-19 ERA



*Jeff Cobb &  
Celisa Steele*

# virtual conference

- : Web-based event that replicates aspects of a traditional place-based conference, membership meeting, or trade show
- : standalone or as a hybrid
- : multiple sessions, *not just a single Webinar or Webcast*
- : in real time (synchronously), on demand (asynchronously), or both

# Have you offered a virtual conference?

- Yes
- No, but plan to in the next 12 months
- No, and don't plan to in the next 12 months

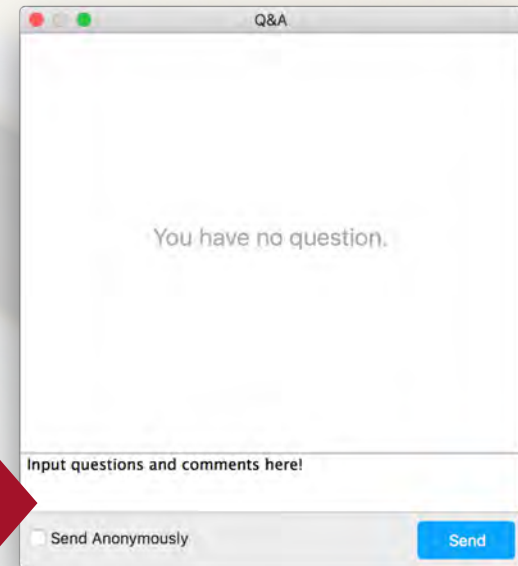
# How has COVID-19 impacted you?

- We have plans to offer our 1st virtual conference.
- We're considering offering our 1st.
- We're expanding our virtual conference offering(s).
- We're considering expanding offering(s).
- It hasn't impacted what we're doing or not with virtual conferences.

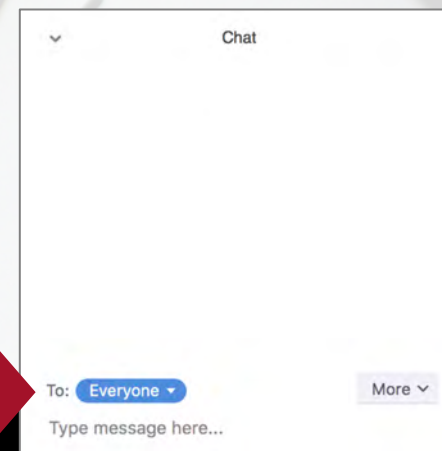
# agenda

- 4 key aspects of virtual conferences
  - planning
  - preparation
  - delivery
  - follow-up
- Q&A
- parting thoughts

Use **Q&A** to send questions.



Use **Chat** to share comments and to see what others share. So everyone may see what you share, **select “All panelists and attendees”** in the dropdown beside To.





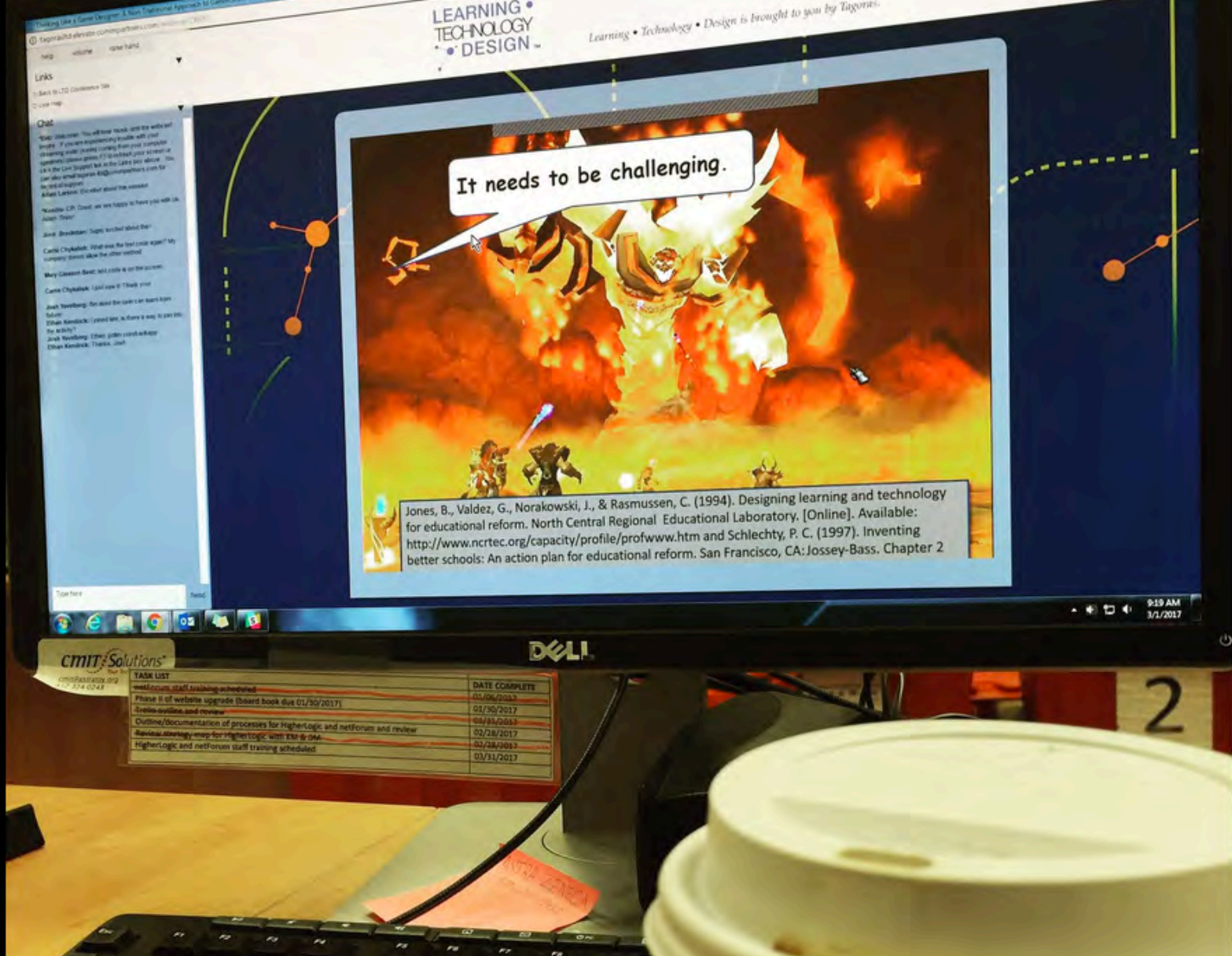


**planning**



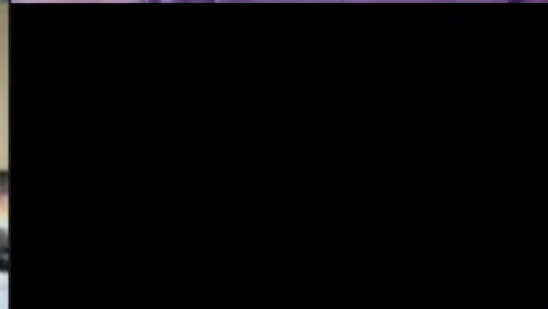
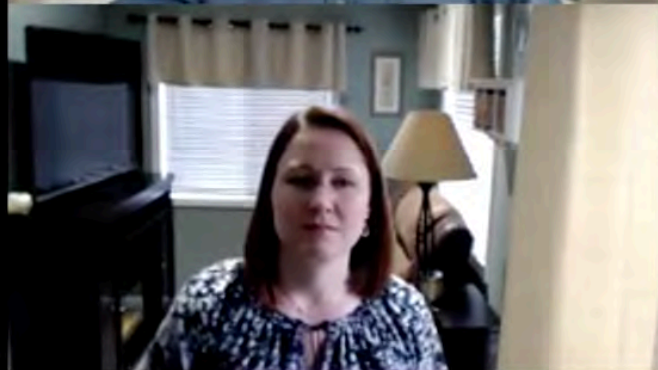
Learning · Technology · Design  
May 2016 | **Arlington, VA**





Learning • Technology • Design  
March 2017 | **online**





▶ 46:02 / 1:02:04




Learning · Technology · Design  
February 2018 | **online**



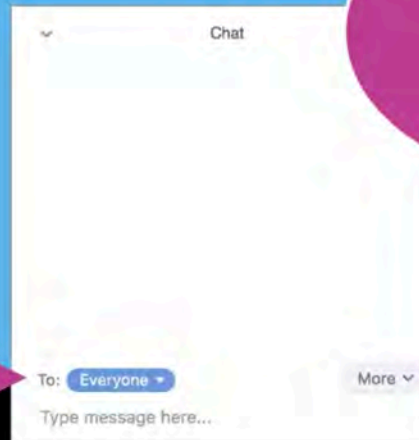
## Why microlearning?

Learning • Technology • Design  
February 2019 | **online**

What does it mean to you  
to be in the **learning  
business?**



Share in  
the chat.



Learning • Technology • Design  
February 2020 | **online**



# planning

- timeline
- location
- structure
- value proposition
- decisions about sponsorship
- pricing
- marketing





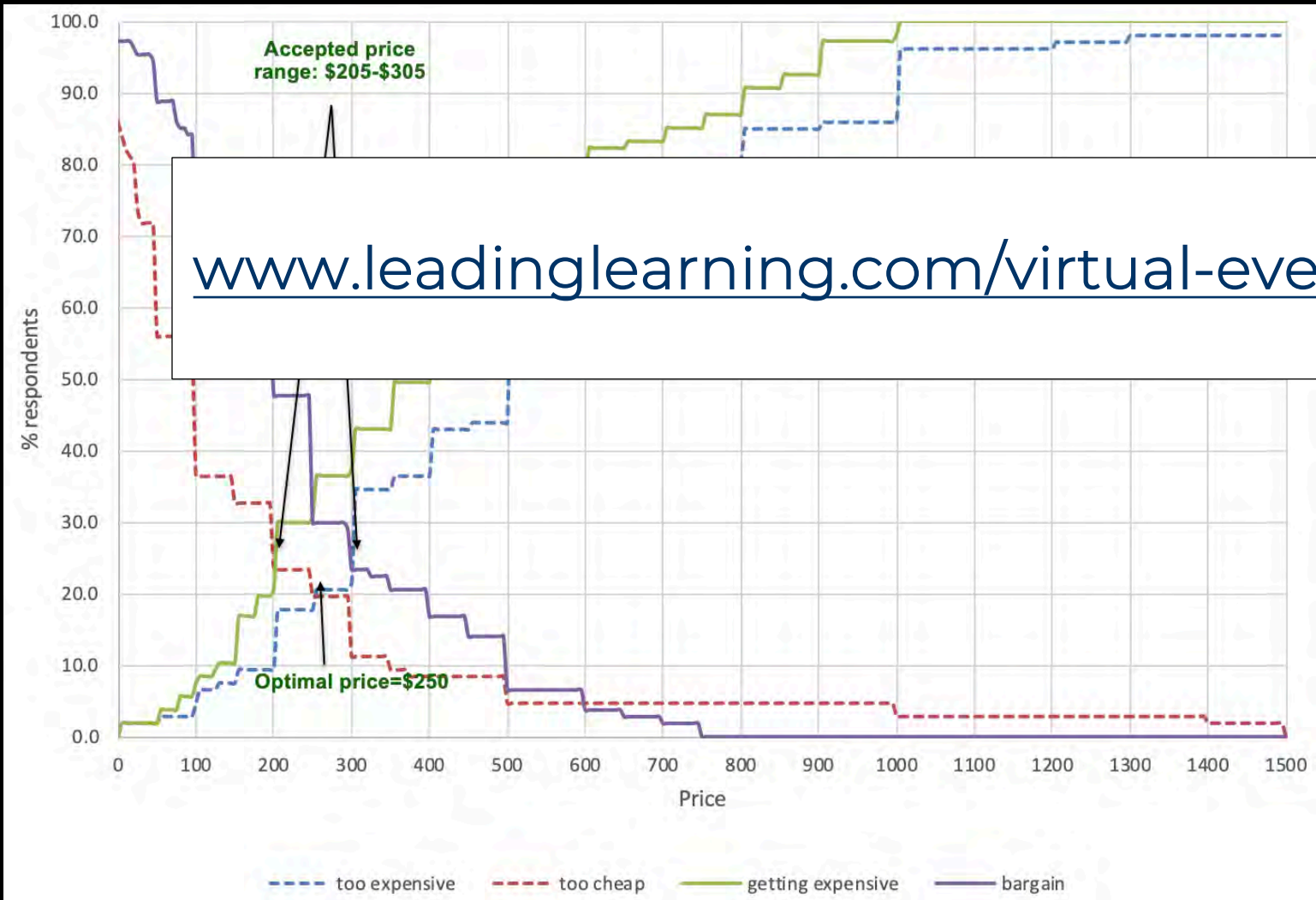
## **2016 (f2f)**

- 11 sessions
- 2 days
- reception
- sponsor + exhibitors

## **2017**

- 20 sessions
- 2.5 days
- sponsors + exhibitors
- 10 demos

# Van Westendorp



[www.leadinglearning.com/virtual-events](http://www.leadinglearning.com/virtual-events)

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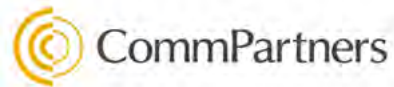
- 23 sessions
- 11 days/1 month
- online community
- no sponsorship

## **2019**

- 16 sessions
- 2 days
- online community
- patrons

## **2020**

- 20 sessions
- 2 days (gap day)
- online community
- patrons



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**preparation**

# preparation

- work with SMEs
- work with sponsors
- communication with attendees
- use of a theme
- adequate support





**delivery**



# delivery

- use of Web cams
- use of chat
- priming and synthesis  
(thematic arc and pre-suasion)
- Collaborative Coaching and  
Follow-Up Friday
- execution and technical points

**follow-up**



# follow-up

- recordings
- online community
- evaluation (testimonials)
- boosting and e-book
- persistence of Web site and interest pop-up

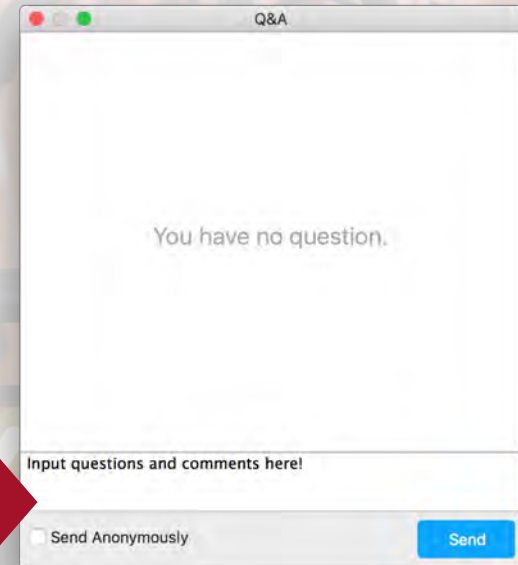


ASK

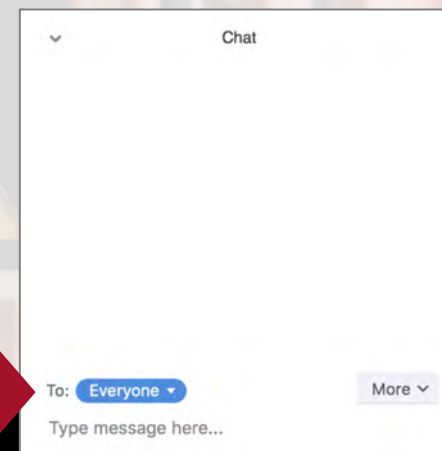




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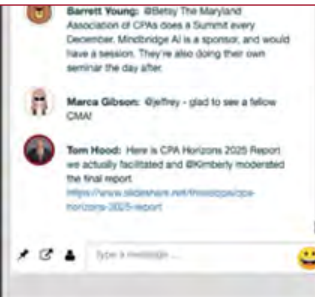




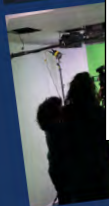
## WHO WE ARE

We help organizations and individuals host virtual conferences that foster meaningful conversations and promote high audience engagement.

[www.leadinglearning.com/matchbox](http://www.leadinglearning.com/matchbox)



# THE VIRTUAL EVENTS REPORT



written by Celisa Steele and Jeff Cobb  
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*\* learning business success*