Teacher for Learning Activity 6 – Patchwork reflection

Patch 37 – On the Road Again

Captured paragraph

It strikes me that this is a lot like the built environment of the classroom and the LMS. Sometimes you’re stuck in a room that’s not ideal, or the technology fails you, and all you can do is express sympathy and go to the backup plan. (Or, if you’re like me, make up a backup plan on the spot.) When an environment is new to everyone, that can be a shared experience. I’m a little more concerned about the issues which we get used to – the “Moodle just works that way” and “oh yeah, there’s no bathroom on this floor” problems. How do we make sure a new member of our community learns these tips and tricks, the ones we don’t always cover in orientation and official documentation?

My reflection

I chose this patch for its name title. Imagine my surprise when the content was not typically about travel. The paragraph noted above spoke strongly to me – reminiscent of my first few teaching months on campus as a new instructor. Feeling a bit “into the deep end” on unfamiliar territory with technology that didn’t work the way I had be shown that it would in orientation. Made even more painful with not having the experience required to think about any “work arounds” or having any backup plan.

This encourages empathy and has led to a creation of a supportive teaching community blog (old school) and now morphed into an online support community using Teams! This has been super helpful to the new faculty coming in now who can reach out to seasoned faculty for hints, tips, tricks, problem- solving solutions at the time of experiencing the challenge. This has resulted in, hopefully, no one feeling like they are “swimming in the deep end without life preservers”.