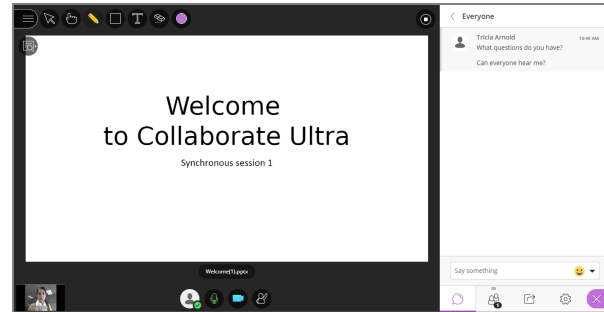# Blackboard: Interact with Students in a Course

Synchronous Tools

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra:
Real-time video conferencing tool with file and desktop sharing capabilities.

Asynchronous Tools

Announcements: Post notices for students on the course home page.

Send Email: Send email messages to individuals or groups of students enrolled in a course.

Discussion Board: Setup discussion forums in which students can post and respond to other students.

Wikis: Provide a collaborative workspace where students can create and modify content together.

Blogs: Create a space where students can share reflections and ideas intended for the *entire class*.

Journals: Create a space where students share reflections and ideas intended *only for the instructor*.

VoiceThread: Create and share multimedia VoiceThread presentations on which others then comment using audio, video, and text responses.

Provide Student Access to Tools

On the Course Menu *(provides quick access to frequently used tools)*

1. Click the plus icon [icon] in the top left of the *Course Menu* and select **Tool Link**.

2. In the box, enter a **Name** and select the **Type** drop-down menu to choose a tool like *Blogs*.

3. Check **Available to Users**.

4. Click **Submit**.

In a Content Area *(provides access near related content)*

1. In the *Course Menu*, click on the **Content Area** in which you want to add the tool *(e.g., Electronic Reserves, Weekly Sessions, etc.)*.

2. In the action bar, click **Tools** and choose a tool from the menu.

3. Complete the fields on the resulting page and click **Submit**.