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## Ask the expert

### Question 1: Can social media help my students create a learning community?

Absolutely! A brilliant example of this, I think, is #WeCommunities (see <http://www.wecomunities.org>)

This is a hugely successful hub on Twitter, which brings together health professionals, both in their own disciplines and as a bigger community. It began with @WeNurses, started by Teresa Chinn (@AgencyNurse), who felt professionally isolated when working as an agency nurse and was looking for a way to connect with other nurses for support and for the purposes of continuing professional development, keeping up to date and sharing best practice.

They now have over 50,000 followers for @WeNurses alone and #WeCommunities has a wide range of sub-communities from @WeCommissioners to @WeDocs and @WeAHPs.

WeCommunities largely operates through Twitter, where they hold regular tweetchats (weekly/twice weekly to monthly, depending on which sub-community) and have active accounts, which bring together people in casual discussion, encourage sharing of resources and offer friendly general support. It's a brilliant way to network too.

They have a useful website, which includes archives of all the tweetchats, as well as details of forthcoming ones, a blog, and a 'Twitteriversity' with resources to help people improve their Twitter skills.

They are also using Pinterest very well to capture events and post infographics and other material <https://uk.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=wenurses&rs=typed&0=wenurses%7Ctyped>

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