

Kiandra Facilitates Peer Learning With a Little Help From iClicker

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Kiandra Johnson Headspeth is a senior instructor in the mathematics department at Spelman College, a historically Black, liberal arts college in Atlanta, Georgia. For more than 15 years, Kiandra has incorporated peer learning activities in the classroom because she has seen their positive impact on student learning firsthand. In selecting a courseware solution, she needed something that was flexible enough to work with, not against, her teaching style. She found that in Achieve, which includes access to the student engagement platform iClicker.

About Kiandra Johnson Headspeth's Course

Kiandra combines many pedagogical methods in her calculus courses. She requires reading ahead of class, incorporates peer learning, and embraces the gradual release model for her course structure. She needed a learning platform that could keep up and she's found it in Achieve.

Course: Calculus II

Class Size: 15-30 students

Institution: Spelman College

Use Case: Peer learning • Student accountability
Gradual release model • Just-in-time teaching • Active learning

Macmillan Learning Technology Used: Achieve and iClicker

Macmillan Learning Textbook Assigned: *Calculus* by Jon Rogawski;
Colin Adams; Robert Franzosa

Standout Feature: iClicker Polling





A Tall Order: Searching for a Learning Platform That Could Do It All

Finding the right courseware platform isn't always easy. Before discovering Achieve in 2018, Kiandra tried WebAssign, MyMathLab, Poll Everywhere and Kahoot — all of which she felt didn't quite meet the needs of her courses. She had a tall order.

Kiandra needed a learning platform that could:

- Keep students accountable
- Inform her when they hadn't done the required reading
- Offer students immediate feedback on their work
- Help her facilitate the peer learning activities that are an integral part of her courses.

Kiandra immediately switched to Achieve when she learned that it had everything she was searching for in one easy-to-use platform.

Kiandra requires students to read before they attend class. But the courseware platforms she tried didn't always have a way for her to check if students had done the reading. One element that drew her to Achieve was the reading questions. She appreciated not only the engaging reading experience but the ability to know whether or not her students had done the reading, and as a result how prepared they were for class.

Kiandra also struggled with the thought that when her students used other homework and courseware platforms and got a question wrong, they would either sit with the misconceptions for days or experience stress and frustration over getting the answer wrong without understanding why. Achieve uses LearningCurve adaptive quizzing to analyze students' answers and give them immediate feedback as they work through problems.

“I love the fact that my Achieve course includes questions that I can use in iClicker. Sometimes it's hard for me to create questions on the spot,” she shared.

Kiandra was already using peer learning activities in the classroom and she was already a fan of the iClicker* student engagement platform — the next step for Kiandra was to figure out how to marry the two.

*iClicker is now available with many Achieve courses at no extra cost.



Using iClicker in Support of The I do, We Do, You Do Peer Learning Model



Kiandra likes to say that “college is not post-high school — it’s pre-world.” Like many educators, she is aware that there are very few professions that students can go into today where they will work in a silo. And so, she aims to not only teach her students calculus but to prepare them for a world where they will have to effectively communicate their ideas and learn from the people around them.

Peer learning requires planning, organization, and a great deal of attentiveness. For many instructors, it isn’t easy to facilitate, and it can be unwieldy when done on the fly. Kiandra uses iClicker to make peer learning simple and effective. **“Once the semester gets going, I pretty much use iClicker every day,”** she said. Kiandra often asks her students to take an iClicker poll and waits for the responses to roll in before breaking them into small groups to discuss. She likes to pair students who responded differently together. For example, if the iClicker poll included a correct and an incorrect answer, she will group students who responded incorrectly with students who responded correctly. Kiandra then instructs her students to explain why they responded the way they did and to try to convince each other why their response is right.

For more than a decade, Kiandra has used the “I do, we do, you do” gradual release model to structure her courses. She demonstrates a process for her students. Then she invites them to work together, giving them the opportunity to lean on one another to identify and fill gaps in their understanding before setting them off to apply their knowledge independently.



The Difference Peer Learning with iClicker Has Made in Kiandra's Courses

Using iClicker as a student engagement tool and to facilitate peer learning has provided Kiandra's students with more opportunities than she originally thought possible. She shared that, **"iClicker gives my students the opportunity to assess their own learning. When I use iClicker I hear my students say things like 'I knew that was the answer!' or 'Ugh! I thought I got that one right.'"**

Kiandra has observed that

100%

of her students who attend class consistently engage in peer learning activities when she uses iClicker

And it isn't just iClicker that she



She's also found that

55% more

of her students come to class prepared to learn with having engaged with the content in Achieve and practiced with LearningCurve adaptive quizzing

Get Started With Achieve and iClicker Today!

If you're looking for intuitive learning support solutions to help you engage all students regardless of level of preparation, wherever instruction happens, look to the breakthrough combination of Macmillan Learning's Achieve platform, and it's fully integrated classroom response system, iClicker. Seamlessly integrated into your campus's Learning Management System, Achieve and iClicker deliver powerful media and assessment tools that give every student a voice.

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