55 - Evaluation of Cyber Peer-Led Team Learning (cPLTL)

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Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) has been used to reduce attrition and improve undergraduate achievement and success. A decade of research has shown consistent positive results for students who participate in PLTL workshops. Today, advances in technology have opened new avenues for developing and re-visioning how PLTL is used. With this in mind, we have developed Cyber Peer-Led Team Learning (cPLTL)—interactive cyber work spaces where students use technology as a conduit for collaboration while learning scientific concepts.

Unlike asynchronous online courses, cPLTL allows real-time chat, video conferencing, document sharing, and desktop sharing capabilities. Such advancements have generated more questions about PLTL's capacity to further enhance how and what students learn. Research now focuses on how students use technology in the workshops, how the technology influences the disposition to learn, and what learning is developed online. Preliminary research indicates environmental differences impact each of these areas.

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