In 2014 the Mountain West chapter declared they wanted more out of their annual virtual conference than simply a digital surrogate for an in-person meeting. Here are a few of their requests and the solutions we tested:

- **How can we structure the conference so I don’t have to sit all day watching presentations in my office?**
- **I want to easily see supplemental materials and contact information for each presenter.**
- **I’d like to be able to ask questions and see the questions other people are asking even if I can’t make it to a live event.**

We used Canvas to create the conference website. Each presenter had their own page with the embedded presentation, links to related materials, and a discussion board.

We preredcorded presentations so that participants could watch whenever and wherever they liked.

We held a live Q&A on December 5th, 2014. We used AdobeConnect and allowed each presenter 20 minutes to answer questions and respond to comments. This live session was was recorded for those who couldn’t make it or wanted to watch again.

A post-conference survey told us how it worked:

- “It was really great to watch the presentations as I had time. I think the question and answer portion worked well in creating some useful discussions.”
- “[I enjoyed that] Questions could be formulated beforehand and posted in the discussion part of canvas. Cost was less than traveling to a conference site. In terms of a learning experience, the online format provides more opportunity for focus and reflection on each presentation.”
- “[I enjoyed the] Flexibility to watch the presentations when convenient, different methods of asking questions, variety of presentations”

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