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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Written By :Elizabeth Larson

PRESENCE IN PRACTICE

SPL₂
SOCIAL PRESENCE
LITERACY LAB

Welcome Back!

Can you believe it's fall already? We hope your summer was filled with rest, fun, and maybe even a little adventure. Over the summer, we have been hard at work planning exciting new events, resources, and opportunities for the year ahead. We can't wait to share what's coming and to continue building a community rooted in learning, connection, and presence.

As we begin the 2025–2026 year, we encourage everyone to share all the amazing social presence strategies you've tried in your classrooms in our online discussion forum, join in upcoming CIRT events, and participate in new opportunities to connect and collaborate. Together, we can continue to grow a community where presence, learning, and engagement thrive.



Everyday Presence – Exploring Social Presence in Life's Daily Rhythms

We're excited to share our new Fall 2025 video series:

Everyday Presence. At its core is a simple truth, presence isn't just for classrooms or meetings. It's how we live, connect, and care for one another in the moments that matter most. From September through December, we'll release a new short film each month, along with a participant guide full of prompts, strategies, and reflections to spark conversation. Together, we'll explore questions like: How do we bring humanity into tech-shaped spaces? What does it mean to truly "be present" in a rushed world? How can presence deepen teaching, relationships, and community?

Want a first look? Check out our video trailer here:

[Everyday Presence](#)

Fall 2025 Lineup

- **September** – Roll Call: Who's Really Here? (Teaching & Learning)
- **October** – Unmasked: What Masks Do We Wear? (Work & Professional Relationships)
- **November** – Together: How Do We Show Up for Each Other? (Family, Friendships, Community & Faith)
- **December** – Still: Where Is Presence in the Quiet? (Solitude, Nature & Grief)



Every Class Needs a Hero: The Power of Social Presence

Behind every screen is a student. Behind every lesson is a story. And behind every connection is a superpower: social presence. Like a comic book hero, it's not about extraordinary powers—it's about everyday actions that make an extraordinary difference. When we show up with authenticity and encouragement, students feel seen, heard, and valued. For fun, we at the Social Presence Literacy Lab even imagined our own superhero—and our own superpower of connection.

Superpower of Purposeful Presence

Every hero knows it's not just about showing up, it's how you show up. Purposeful presence means using each interaction to encourage, guide, and create space where students know their voices matter. It's what turns everyday teaching into connection, inspiration, and growth.

Superpower of Voice

A hero's voice can inspire hope in the midst of chaos. Instructors use their voices to encourage curiosity, ask thoughtful questions, and make feedback feel like a conversation rather than a correction. Tone matters, and when it's warm and supportive, students lean in and learn more deeply.

Superpower of Humanity

Comic book heroes often win hearts not because they are flawless, but because they are relatable. Likewise, faculty strengthen social presence by being human, sharing personal insights, acknowledging challenges, and even adding humor. Humanity creates connection, and connection fuels learning..

In the classroom, especially online, social presence is our superpower. It doesn't require capes, masks, or being worthy of wielding Mjolnir. Although, if you are like Professor E, she really wants to try.

We just need to be consistent and teach with intentionality. Like any great hero, the secret isn't perfection. The secret is choosing to show up, again and again, for those who need us most.



**Professor Tom—
Superpower of Purposeful Presence**



**Professor E—
Superpower of Voice**



**Professor J—
Superpower of Humanity**



Unleash Your Inner Social Presence Superhero

Want to create your own Superhero of Social Presence?

At the Social Presence Literacy Lab, we've had fun imagining social presence as a superhero—one who shows up with authenticity, encouragement, and connection to make a difference in the online classroom. Now it's your turn! 🤖 **We'd love for you to design your own Social Presence Superhero and share it with us.**

Think about the qualities that make presence powerful in your teaching or learning. Is it encouragement? Listening? Empathy? Humor? Creativity? Then imagine how those qualities might shine as a superpower.

We've created a ready-to-use AI prompt to help you bring your superhero to life, customize it any way you like! You can also find it posted in the lab's discussion forum for easy copy/paste.

Superhero Prompt: Create a comic-book cover of me as a Superhero of Social Presence. I wear **[colors]**, with an emblem that symbolizes social presence: **[symbol]**. Place me in **[location]** at **[time of day]**, with a **[expression that conveys connection]**. Surround me with illustrated elements that reflect my passions and how I show up for others: **[interests]**. The cover title should feature my superhero name: **[name/title]**, and the tagline should read: **[motto]**.

Once your superhero is ready, share it in the [CIRT discussion forum](#) and join the fun! We can't wait to see these new heroes of social presence—worthy of lifting Mjolnir or defeating the villain of invisibility in our classrooms.

Don't Forget to Visit the Social Presence Literacy Lab!

Located in CIRT, the Social Presence Literacy Lab is your go-to space for practical tools and inspiration. Inside, you'll find valuable resources, past webinars, including the Spring series ***Social Presence in an AI-Driven Educational Landscape: Strengthening Human Connection***, and an active discussion forum where you can connect with colleagues. To explore the lab, simply scan the QR code below and start exploring today!



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**SOCIAL PRESENCE
LITERACY LAB**

A place to study, teach, and live presence with purpose.

