In post-secondary education, students and instructors share the responsibility for the quality of the learning that takes place.

Students need to be engaged in the learning process. They need to think critically; they cannot be passive. There are two kinds of critical thinking - thinking critically about the correctness of the material and thinking about the applicability of the material. Recognition of this difference is important. Thinking about the applicability of the material can interfere with learning when the applicability is not obvious. Students need to recognize and accept this.

Instructors need to present material clearly. Innovative teaching methods and new technologies can stimulate the learning process provided the basics are not neglected. Instructors need to challenge students, and assess the learning that takes place. Assessment helps both the students and the instructors. Effective assessment provides students with positive reinforcement and assures them that they are learning what they should be learning. It also helps instructors gauge whether their teaching is effective - if they are teaching to the right level, and if they are communicating the ideas they intend to be communicating.

As an instructor, I look for opportunities to use new technologies and to apply innovative teaching methods when appropriate. I encourage students to be active learners and to think about the learning process itself - to identify and understand their preferred learning style. Instruction is more effective when the students and the instructor recognize that they share responsibility for the quality of the learning that takes place.