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The teaching practice and the need it addresses:  
Learning can be enhanced by relating course and lesson contents to knowledge and experiences gained outside the classroom. Therefore, all information provided in a lesson is linked to previous lessons. Linkages are enhanced through classroom demonstrations and discussions and opportunities to learn outside the classroom. Information is also linked to future lessons, course objectives, and overall degree program outcomes. Linking information (“what”) with knowledge (“why”) leads to wisdom (ability to predict “what-if”).  

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:  
Students show increased interest and engagement when contents are linked to their previous knowledge and experience. The students that proactively engage also demonstrate better learning during the tests. Student evaluation comments indicate benefits of various practices adopted to enhance learning through enriched linkages. Dr. Stephen’s teaching practices have been recognized through university and NSHE level teaching awards.  

Resources and where to find them:  
Various technologies can be engaged to enrich linkages in student learning. Visualizations on YouTube and hands-on experience through in-class demos can engage students with varying learning styles. Social media such as Facebook can increase contact time with students and provide additional avenues of learning. WebCampus based quizzes and exams can help measure learning of each student against various course objectives and learning outcomes.  

How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice  
Planning weekly lessons and providing a clear links with course objectives enables students to read ahead and regularly gauge progress. Board-notes for a lesson can include examples from everyday life linked to the lesson objectives. Encouraging and engaging students to contribute during the lesson enriches learning through tapping into students’ personal experiences.