

Announcing a new *Reach Out* initiative: *Reach Out to Collaborate*

The last several challenging months have motivated many of us to be more creative in finding new ways to achieve our goals. Strengthened by our Bentley values, we are fortunate to have a solid infrastructure and the resources to help us overcome obstacles before us and move forward with our vision.

I had the pleasure of observing effective collaboration among members of our community. They helped each other adapt to innovative approaches to ease the stress of these challenging times. They shared their concern and provided support to each other. They proposed new ways to address and resolve new challenges.

Some colleagues may hesitate to bring forward new ideas or propose new solutions. They may suspect that the extra work required to implement their proposals will not be appreciated or adequately recognized. Perhaps in these unstable times, they fear the consequences of increasing their visibility.

Surely, there are initiatives or projects that if properly implemented will enable departments across our Bentley community to operate more smoothly, effectively, and collaboratively in these stressful times.

The benefits to collaboration are many. It fosters community and team building when people get together, even if virtually, from diverse departments and groups. It gives participants the opportunity to learn from each other and appreciate different perspectives that will expedite solutions to pressing problems. It increases morale and allows us to think longer term. It also gives us a sense of empowerment to learn new tools and to adapt to a new “normal.”

Some of the earlier *Reach Out* initiatives focused on [solving a conflict](#) in a constructive manner; [expressing appreciation](#); and asking [for constructive feedback](#).

My hope is that this *Reach Out* initiative will encourage us to initiate collaboration with our colleagues when the opportunity arises.

There is an old African proverb that states: “If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”

As a confidential resource for you, I am happy to help in any way I can.

I wish you all good health and safety as we collaborate to make this new semester a success for all.

All my best,

Eliane S. Markoff