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# Appreciating the “A” Word Putting A Plan in Action

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# **Appreciating the “A” Word: Putting A Plan in Action**

**Laura Darrah, Brad Dennis, Maira Bundza**

**WMU Assessment Day • March 12, 2010**

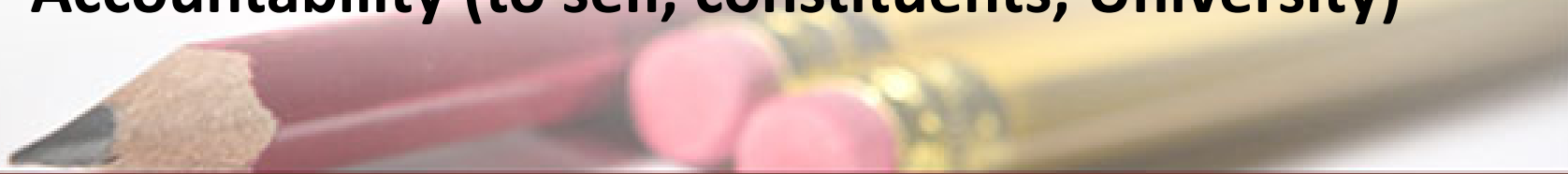
# Assessment Plans

- **Assessment plans identify the structure, timeline and uses of assessment within the department.**



# Assessment Plans

- **Benefits of having a plan**
  - Think long-term
  - Focus your efforts toward specific goals
  - Identify missing elements
  - Continuous program improvement
  - Close the loop
  - Budget implications
  - Accountability (to self, constituents, University)



# Assessment Plans

- **Plans should include the following:**
  - **Clear statements of intended student learning outcomes with criteria for student performance**
  - **Multiple measures to determine the extent to which students are meeting those intended outcomes**
  - **Timeline for collecting data on student performance measures**

# Assessment Plans

- **Plans should include the following cont.:**
  - **Planned uses of assessment results for program improvement**
  - **Plans should be dynamic documents that change over time to reflect lessons learned from assessment results as well as advances the discipline**



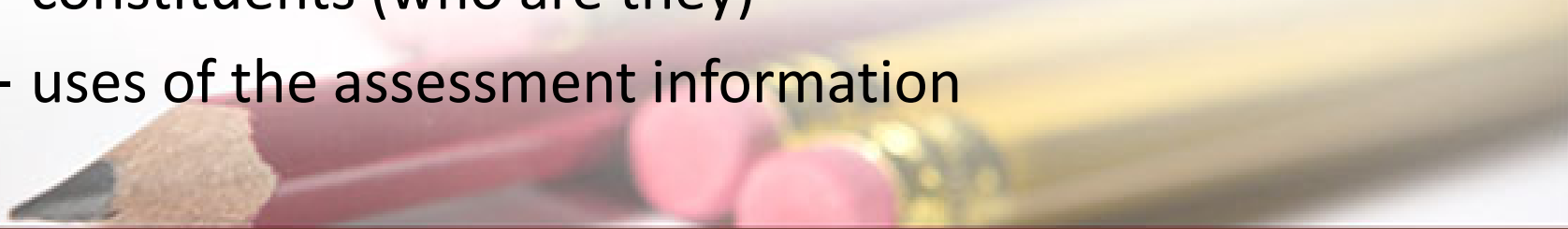
# Where to Start?

- Identify what you already do with assessment
- **Sample 1 and 2** (see packet)



# Where to Start?

- **Pull together components that may be included or referenced in the plan**
  - mission/vision/goals
  - strategic plan
  - learning outcomes
  - staff expectations
  - professional organization charges/guidelines/outcomes
  - constituents (who are they)
  - uses of the assessment information





# Sample Approaches and Plans

- **Goals/outcome based approach**
  - **Sample 3 - Residence Life** (see packet)
- **Category approach**
  - **Sample 4 - Advising Office, College of Arts and Science** (see packet)



# Work Time



# What's Next

- **UASC assessment plan review**
  - UASC review sheet and draft of University Libraries plan (see packet)
- **Resources to help**
  - [www.wmich.edu/assessment/](http://www.wmich.edu/assessment/)
  - TAC (Traveling Assessment Consultation) Team
  - TracDat



# Good Luck!

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