Assessment Matters #13, July 2011

Assessment in Action Committee

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ASSESSMENT MATTERS @ WMU

A newsletter of the University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) to disseminate information on tools, education & training, and best practices for assessment at WMU.

July 2011-Issue #13

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Welcome! Please forward this to anyone that may have an interest in assessment. For suggestions or comments, contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

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A Note from the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies:
The spring semester was an active time for assessment here at WMU. On March 24 and 25 we held the second annual Assessment in Action Day. Our guest speaker was Dr. Mary Allen who provided us with several workshops on assessment and left behind approximately 80 examples of rubrics. If you would like to see the rubrics, please contact Karen Stokes Chapo and she can give you access. Attendance was high at the workshop and I think those that attended went away with some valuable knowledge regarding assessment of student learning. I want to personally thank Karen Stokes Chapo who planned the event.

It was announced at the workshop that Kathy Cummings was this year’s recipient of the University Assessment Steering Committee’s Individual Assessment Award. This annual award goes to the faculty or staff member who has published on assessment and made the greatest impact on the university in the area of assessment. As the one responsible for assessment on campus, I can’t think of a more deserving individual.

Finally, sixteen non-degree granting units on campus are in the midst of writing initial versions of assessment plans. Degree granting units developed plans about 5 years ago, and the current process is designed to bring the other units on campus into the world of assessment. It is hoped that the University Assessment Steering Committee will approve these plans this fall so that units can begin collecting and analyzing data that will lead to improvements across campus.

I wish everyone an enjoyable summer.

Dave Reinhold
Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

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WMU Assessment in Action Day 2011 Portfolio & Rubric Samples Portfolio
For those of you who were unable to attend the WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference on March 25, 2011, the handouts and presentations are available in an online portfolio that can be found on the following URL: http://www.iwebfolio.com/public/stokesk

There is also a large collection of sample rubrics that were brought to us by Dr. Mary Allen, who was the keynote speaker and presenter at several presentations on Assessment in Action Day 2011
and the day prior. These rubrics are not available online, per a request from Dr. Allen, but anyone interested in viewing them can contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu to request access.

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*University Assessment Steering Committee: Individual Assessment Excellence Award Winner, 2011*

Announcing the winner of the 2011 University Assessment Steering Committee Individual Assessment Excellence Award, Dr. Katharine Cummings, Associate Dean for the College of Education and Human Development and Director of Teacher Education. This award is given every other year to a faculty or staff member who has shown exemplary work in the area of assessment of student learning. To read Dr. Cummings article entitled, “KISS My Assessment! Simplifying Assessment for Sustainability”, which was submitted as an application for this award, go to: http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/pdf/KISS-My-Assessment-2011.pdf

Congratulations to Dr. Cummings for winning this award and for being such a positive role model for all of us to follow. For more information about this award and how to apply for it, click here.

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*2011 Graduate Student Assessment Grant Recipients*

Congratulations to the recipients of the new 2011 Graduate Student Assessment Grant, Amy Bentz, a doctoral student in the Mallinson Institute for Science Education; and, Stephanie Means, doctoral student in the Ph.D. in Evaluation – Interdisciplinary CoEHD program. This is the first time these grants were awarded and we look forward to this award being an incentive for other students to participate in assessment of and for student learning. The award is planned to be distributed again during the fall semester 2011. Look for more information to come!

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*Faculty Assessment Grant Recipients, Fiscal Year 2012*

Congratulations to the award recipients of the fiscal year 2012 Faculty Assessment Grants. See below for a list of this year’s recipients. Each year, there is grant money available for faculty and staff members to aid in assessment of student learning. For more information on the how to apply for the grants go to: Faculty Assessment Grant Program Guidelines 2011-12

And for questions, contact Dave Reinold: david.reinhold@wmich.edu

*Anne Lundquist*, Division of Student Affairs  
*Marilyn Duke*, Center for Academic Success Programs, *Laura Darrah*, Residence Life and  
*Toni Woolfork-Barnes*, First-Year Experience Programs  
*Dianna Sachs*, University Libraries and *Carrie Leatherman*, University Libraries  
*Elizabeth Bradburn*, Dept. of English  
*Deanna Roell and Robyn Bowers*, Center for Academic Success Programs  
*Gil Sinclair and Ryan Seiler*, Aviation  
*Edwin Martini and James Cousins*, Dept. of History  
*Donna Weinreich*, School of Social Work

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**Groups Helped by TAC (Traveling Assessment Consultation) Teams**

There is a valuable resource available to any person/department/unit on campus (free of charge!) to help departments and units on campus with their assessment efforts called Traveling Assessment Consultation (TAC) Teams. These TAC Teams are available for consultation about various assessment of student learning topics. Some examples of topics covered are: Writing outcome statements, creating rubrics for measuring student learning outcomes, developing a sustainable assessment plan and much more. Some departments, including Comparative Religion and English, have taken advantage of this opportunity already by inviting teams to come in to their departmental meetings and the feedback from these departments has been very positive. Please take advantage of this resource as we are here to help you! There is an online request form that can be accessed by going to: [http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/TAC-teams.html](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/TAC-teams.html)

For questions, contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

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**TracDat Help Sessions**

For those who are interested in learning more about TracDat and how this tool can aid in the assessment process for your department/unit, we are offering several TracDat Help Sessions during the summer II semester. The sessions are scheduled in a computer lab to facilitate hands on learning. We will show you how to use this tool and there will be people there to answer any questions that you may have. For those who are interested in attending, please plan to bring along data that you would like to enter into TracDat or a new assessment plan if you are in the process of developing a plan. RSVP to Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

**TracDat Help Session Summer II Schedule:**

- Wednesday, 07/13: 9 to 11 a.m. – 1107 Sangren Hall
- Friday, 07/15: 9 to 11 a.m. – 1107 Sangren Hall
- Monday, 07/18: 10 a.m. to noon – 1107 Sangren Hall
- Thursday, 07/21: 1 to 3 p.m. – 1107 Sangren Hall

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**General Education Information**

If you are interested in learning more about what other universities and institutions are doing in regards to general education, we have added a link on the assessment website to a URL created by New Jersey City University. This URL contains articles relating to general education program design as well as links to all 50 states general education guidelines. To access the URL, go to the following page: [http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/gened.html](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/gened.html)

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**WMU Assessment in Action Day 2012**

We are looking for suggestions for the keynote speaker and for presentation topics for the 2012 WMU Assessment in Action Day. Please share any recommendations that you have for speakers who would have information to share with our campus about topics in assessment of and for student learning. When making a suggestion, please provide any contact information for the individual(s), if possible. We value your opinions and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for any suggestions and feedback you provide. Send your suggestions to: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu
Fall Assessment Conferences
There are several assessment conferences coming up this fall. One of them is The 2011 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, IN, October 30 through November 1. The call for proposals has passed but there is still plenty of time to enroll for the conference. To view a list of other conferences go to: http://www.assessmentconferences.com/

Assessment in Action Advisory Committee
Interested in assessment? Want to help our campus to become more involved with assessment and advocate for this very important issue? Join the Assessment in Action Advisory Committee and help to shape the assessment conversation at our university. Contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu for more information. For a description of AIA, go to: http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/aia-subcommittee.html

Assessment Tip
Assessment may seem like a “four letter word” to some people, but the use of formative and summative assessments can lead to higher levels of student learning. When we identify the OUTCOMES of instruction (what students will know and be able to do following instruction), students can be more active participants in the learning process because they know what is expected of them. Think of assessment as a kind of GPS system for your classes! Formative assessment can provide data for “recalculating” your course plan, and summative assessment tells you whether your students have arrived at the intended location.

University Assessment Website: www.wmich.edu/assessment