Assessment Matters @ WMU

2-2011

Assessment Matters #12, Feb 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.

February 2011-Issue #12

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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:
As spring hopefully approaches, there are many assessment activities coming up in the near future. I would just like to mention one. Our second annual Assessment in Action Day will be held on March 25. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Allen who is a well known consultant in the assessment field. Some of the details of this event are given below, but I would simply like to invite everyone who can attend to do so. In addition to the workshops presented by Dr. Allen and members of the WMU community on March 25, Dr. Allen will be presenting workshops primarily directed to administrators and nonacademic units on March 24. By all accounts, last year’s first Assessment in Action Day was a success. Let's make this year's event even better.

Dave Reinhold

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WMU Assessment in Action Day:  Friday March 25, 2011 (8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)
To RSVP, contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

We are pleased to bring you the details for the second annual WMU Assessment in Action Day 2011. On Friday, March 25, come to the Fetzer Center for an all day assessment conference filled with opportunities to learn about various assessment topics, to share best practices, and to come away with real useable information to apply in your department or unit. No matter what your experience level with assessment, there is something for you at WMU Assessment in Action Day 2011. Dr. Mary Allen, a well-known consultant in the field of assessment, will be delivering the keynote address, “Foundations in Assessment”, as well as providing us with several presentations and workshops. We will be providing four break out sessions, lunch, a poster session displaying the assessment work of the Assessment Fellows (past and present) and the work of the Assessment for Learning Project graduate students, door prizes, and opportunities to find out about all of the resources on campus to aid in your assessment efforts. For a full schedule of the events for WMU AIA Day 2011, go to: http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/assessment-in-action.html
If you have any questions, please contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

We look forward to seeing you there!!

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Administrator Workshop on Assessment: Presented by Dr. Mary Allen
“Campus Support for Sustainable Assessment”
On March 24 from 10 to 11:30 in room 1040/50 in the Fetzer Center, Dr. Mary Allen will be giving a presentation on assessment for administrators. If you are a dean, associate dean, chair or director, this presentation is for you. Below is a brief description of the presentation. There will be a luncheon from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. after the presentation. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

“Many campuses have moved into assessment multiple times, with assessment waxing and waning with the accreditation cycle, or they have “pockets” of assessment, rather than assessment throughout the institution. In this presentation, we will discuss characteristics of an infrastructure that supports on-going, institution-wide assessment and the roles of administrators, faculty, and staff for ensuring meaningful, manageable, sustainable assessment.”

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Non-academic Unit Presentation on Assessment: Presented by Dr. Mary Allen
“Assessment for Administrative and Student Affairs Units”
On March 24 from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 1040/50 in the Fetzer Center, Dr. Mary Allen will be giving a presentation on assessment for administrative and Student Affairs units. The description for the session is listed below. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

“Professionals in administrative and Student Affairs units use assessment to document and improve their impact. We will discuss outcomes and objectives that are recommended by national organizations (ACPA, NASPA, CAS, AAC&U), campus examples, a variety of assessment strategies, and tools that others have found useful.”

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Assessment of Student Learning Handbook
A new resource, the WMU Assessment of Student Learning Handbook: “Celebrating Student Learning” (2010-2011), has been developed to help our campus community to find the resources needed to answer many questions about assessment of student learning and in particular assessment of student learning at WMU. This handbook is available on the assessment website at: http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/pdf/handbook.pdf
If you have any questions about the handbook, please 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. The sessions are scheduled in computer labs to facilitate hands on learning. 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. We will show you how to use this tool and there will be people there to answer any questions that you may have. RSVP to Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

Wednesday, 3/2: 8:30-10:30 a.m. –Lab Room 1206, Sangren Hall
Monday, 03/07: 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Lab Room 1206, Sangren Hall
Wednesday, 03/09: 10-noon - Lab Room 1206, Sangren Hall
Friday, 03/11: 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Lab Room 1206, Sangren Hall
Monday, 03/14: 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Lab Room 1206, Sangren Hall
Friday, 03/18, 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Lab Room 2202, Sangren Hall

Faculty Assessment Grant Opportunity (2011-2012 Program)
Grants for research on assessment will be awarded by the University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC), and with the approval of the associate provost for assessment and undergraduate studies, to advance the formal assessment of student learning outcomes and program quality—including those programs located at extended sites or branch campus locations—of Western Michigan University. This includes full-time faculty and staff in academic departments, academic support units, and interdisciplinary units in academic affairs, as well as departments and programs within the Division of Student Affairs. The maximum level of award is $5,000 each, with up to $25,000 awarded annually. Funding preference will be for projects involving departments that have not been funded previously by the Faculty Assessment Grants program. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2011. If you are interested in submitting an application for the 2011-2012 program, go to: Faculty Assessment Grant Program 2011-2012, for more details. For questions, please contact Dave Reinhold at: david.reinhold@wmich.edu

Assessment Conferences
There are many assessment conferences being offered in the upcoming months. One of them is the annual meeting of the Higher Learning Commission to be held on April 8-12, 2011 in Chicago. To learn more, go to: http://annualconference.ncahlc.org/
To view a list of some other conferences go to: http://www.assessmentconferences.com/

Spring 2011 Graduate Student Assessment Grant
The University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) is pleased to announce a new award for graduate students, The Graduate Student Assessment Grant (GSAG). Graduate students in any field who are conducting assessment initiatives that interface with
dissertation, thesis, or specialist project research are especially invited to submit a proposal but any graduate student assessment project may be submitted. The award focuses on a “work in progress” and not a completed project. The Graduate College will offer a quality circle review or, in the future, a preparatory course for interested students to inspire competitive applications. Applications are due in the Graduate College by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 7. Winners will be announced at WMU Assessment in Action Day on March 25. For more information on and to access the application, please visit the following URL: www.wmich.edu/grad

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Call for Assessment Plans for Non-Academic Units
The University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) is progressing well with the project of working with various non-academic units to create assessment plans. These units had not been required to submit a formal assessment plan in the past but are now being asked to create a plan to help them to learn where the programs and services they offer can be improved or changed for the benefit of our students. The UASC has commissioned several Consultation and Review Teams consisting of UASC members who are providing assistance and feedback with this process as well as several other resources to aid in this process: Including the WMU Assessment in Action Day 2011 presentations, TracDat Help Sessions, the presentation on March 24 on non-academic unit assessment and small group meetings to work with an outside consultant, Dr. Mary Allen. If you have any questions, please direct them to Dave Reinhold at: david.reinhold@wmich.edu or Pat Benton at: patrick.benton@wmich.edu

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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

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National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)
First-year students and seniors are invited to participate in the 2011 NSSE administration, which began on January 31 and runs through March 15. WMU uses data collected from the surveys to assist in making policy changes more consistent with good practices in undergraduate education. This information is also used by prospective college students and parents when seeking an institution with the “right fit.” Instructors can help improve response rates by reminding their first-year students and seniors to participate in the 2011 NSSE administration.

The 2011 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) will be administered between March 29 and April 20. FSSE was designed to complement the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Survey questions focus on faculty perceptions of how often
students engage in different activities; the importance faculty place on various areas of learning and development; the nature and frequency of faculty-student interactions; and, how faculty members organize their time, both in and out of the classroom.

WMU's NSSE and FSSE results can be viewed at http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/inst_assess.html

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Assessment Tip
Assessment is a waste of time---unless the results are used for improvement. The overall purpose of university assessment is to improve the programs offered by the university. High quality programs require consistent, high quality assessment to assure that students continue to achieve program outcomes.

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University Assessment Website: www.wmich.edu/assessment