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ScholarWorks at WMU

Assessment Matters @ WMU

Assessment

11-2011

Assessment Matters #14, Nov 2011

Assessment in Action Committee

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Assessment in Action Committee, "Assessment Matters #14, Nov 2011" (2011). *Assessment Matters @ WMU*. 1.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment_news/1

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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.

November 2011-Issue #14

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

A Note from the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies:

The Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies continually strives to provide assistance to the university community with regard to assessment matters. To that end, you will notice below that we are continuing to provide TracDat training sessions next semester for those who need help using this tool to simplify assessment. You will also note that we are going to continue our attempts to assess how well students master the defined learning outcomes for general education. A faculty-developed rubric has been distributed to instructors teaching general education courses in hopes that they will use it in their courses (see details below). We are always interested in how we can help promote assessment in the various units. Please feel free to contact Karen Stokes Chapo (karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu) or myself (david.reinhold@wmich.edu) if you have suggestions, questions or need help with assessment issues.

SAVE THE DATE!

WMU Assessment in Action Day 2012: Friday, March 23

We are very excited to announce the 3rd annual WMU Assessment in Action Day which will be held on Friday, March 23, 2012 at the Fetzer Center. Please save the date on your calendar so as not to miss this informative and fun one-day assessment conference. Look for more information to come soon!

General Education Assessment Project

This semester we are doing an assessment of student learning in all of the courses taught in the eight general education distribution areas. Instructors who teach these courses are being asked to volunteer for this project. Volunteers will be asked to evaluate their students based on the learning outcomes for each distribution area using one assignment, paper, project or exam. Data collected will be aggregated and used to determine how to help students improve upon their learning in regards to the learning outcomes in each of the eight areas. Data from volunteers can be turned in any time prior to the spring 2012 semester. For more information and/or if you interested in volunteering, please contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

Assessment Conferences

There are several assessment conferences coming up this academic year. One of them is the 12th Annual Texas A & M Assessment Conference to be held on February 19-21, 2012. For more information go to: <http://assessment.tamu.edu/conference/>
And to view a list of other conferences go to: <http://www.assessmentconferences.com/>

TracDat Help Sessions: Spring 2012

If you are interested in learning more about TracDat and how to utilize this tool for assessment planning and reporting or strategic planning for your colleges, departments and/or units, plan to come to one of the help sessions listed below. The sessions are scheduled in computer labs to facilitate hands on learning. Plan to bring along data that you would like to enter into TracDat. We will show you how to use this tool and there will be people there to answer any questions that you may have. All are invited. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

Thursday, 01/19/12: 9-11 a.m. - 2202 Sangren Hall
Friday, 01/20/12: 1-3 p.m. - 2202 Sangren Hall
Tuesday, 01/24/12: 1-3 p.m. - 2202 Sangren Hall
Wednesday, 01/25/12: 9-11 a.m. - 2202 Sangren Hall

GSAG (Graduate Student Assessment Grant)

The University Assessment Steering Committee and the Graduate College will soon sponsor the Graduate Student Assessment Grant (GSAG), a new award designed to enhance funding opportunities for graduate students interested in conducting research on the assessment of student learning outcomes. Graduate students in any field who are conducting assessment initiatives that interface with the dissertation, thesis, or specialist project research are especially invited to submit a proposal, but any graduate student assessment project may be submitted. The grant focuses on a “work in progress” and not a completed project, and carries with it an award of up to one-thousand dollars. Additional details will be announced presently.

Assessment Web Site

For information about assessment at WMU: Funding, events, handbook, resources, rubrics and support, go to www.wmich.edu/assessment

TracDat for Strategic Planning

TracDat, a tool that Western Michigan University has been using for the past several years to aid in the assessment of student learning, is also an excellent tool to aid with strategic planning efforts. Goals, strategies, how those strategies will be measured and findings information can be entered to keep track of and view progress and determine areas that need focused attention.

College level and department level strategic plans can map to the goals and strategies of the Academic Affairs strategic plan and eventually the WMU strategic plan to show the relationship and support of these goals and strategies. If you are interested in learning more, contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

Rubric Samples Portfolio

If you are interested in rubrics, which can be an excellent tool in evaluating student learning, there is a large collection of sample rubrics that were brought to us by Dr. Mary Allen, who was the keynote speaker and one of the presenters at WMU Assessment in Action Day 2011 last March. 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.

UASC: RISE

Recognize, Inform, Support, Educate

These are the goals of the University Assessment Steering Committee:

Recognize – Develop and conduct methods of recognizing the work and success of faculty and staff in the furtherance of assessment activities and promotion of assessment activities as scholarly endeavors.

Inform – Provide information to the University community about assessment and assessment related activities, resources and opportunities.

Support – Assist the University community in the development and implementation of assessment plans and strategies, including technologies supporting assessment. Review and provide feedback on assessment plans, activities and use of results.

Educate - Increase the awareness and value of the processes, benefits and tools of assessment.

To learn more about the UASC go to: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/uasc.html>

CoEHD Portfolio Contest

The College of Education and Human Development is sponsoring a portfolio contest for fall 2011. The contest provides small cash awards for the top three portfolios prepared during the intern teaching experience. Intern teachers are required to submit electronic portfolio using iWebfolio as part of their “exit assessment” from the teacher education program. Students may submit their portfolios for consideration by a panel of judges who will select the top three based on content, creativity and use of the electronic portfolio software.

Faculty/Staff Assessment Grant (2012-2013)

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 all 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 are normally accepted up through mid-April but the due date for the 2012-2013 program has not yet been determined. If you are interested in submitting an application, look for more details to come. For questions, please contact Dave Reinhold at: david.reinhold@wmich.edu

Assessment Tip

Quick pick assessments: Try using an “exit ticket” when students leave your class! An exit ticket can be as simple as a one-sentence summary of the day’s lesson, a brief paraphrase of a specific concept covered in class that day, or an indication of what was confusing in the day’s lesson. A review of these “tickets” before the next class session gives the faculty member important information about student progress. Even in a large section class, the review of these brief statements will not take a great deal of time and can help assure that students are meeting your intended outcomes.