



Western Michigan University
ScholarWorks at WMU

Assessment Matters @ WMU

Assessment

Fall 11-2012

Assessment Matters #16, Nov 2012

Assessment in Action Committee

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WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Assessment in Action Committee, "Assessment Matters #16, Nov 2012" (2012). *Assessment Matters @ WMU*. 16.

https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment_news/16

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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 2012-Issue #16

Welcome! Please forward this to anyone that may have an interest in assessment of and for student learning. For suggestions or comments, contact Karen Stokes Chapo at:

karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

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

I hope that your fall semester is going well. As usual, there are many activities related to assessment that occur on a continual basis here at WMU. Although I don't want to repeat what is in the following pages, I would like to highlight a couple of things that will take place in the near future.

First, the University Assessment Steering Committee will be asking for nominations for both the individual and unit assessment awards. We need to highlight the achievements in assessment of our faculty and staff so I encourage you to think about possible nominees from your unit.

Second, I want to draw your attention to our fourth annual Assessment in Action Day. The format will be different this year. Dr. Barbara Walvoord will be here March 20 – 22 to present numerous assessment workshops on various topics and a keynote presentation on the last day of her visit.

The topics for the workshops will be announced in the near future and we hope that you or members of your unit can attend the keynote presentation and one of the workshops. Stay tuned for more information as we continue to plan this exciting event.

Thank you for all you do to support the learning of our students through assessment.

Dave Reinhold

Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

SAVE THE DATE!

WMU Assessment in Action Day 2013

The WMU Assessment in Action Day conference will take place on March 20-22, 2013. We have invited Dr. Barbara Walvoord, a renowned author and presenter on the topic of assessment, to come to Western to provide several days of workshops focused on multiple topics about

assessment of student learning. We are looking forward to welcoming Dr. Walvoord to our campus and if you'd like to learn more about her you can go to the following website:

[The IDEA Center](#)

Mark your calendar for this exciting event and look for more details to come!

HIGHLIGHT: Books on Assessment

As a part of the newsletter, we will be featuring books on assessment that we feel would be useful and beneficial to our readers. In this newsletter, we are featuring the book entitled, **“Improving Formative Assessment Practice to Empower Student Learning”** by E. (Elizabeth) Caroline Wylie, Arlen R. Gullickson, Katharine E. Cummings and Paula E. Egelson (2012) We are pleased to showcase this book as our first book as it was co-authored by several members of our WMU family: Dr. Katharine Cummings, the Associate Dean for the College of Education and Human Development, Dr. Arlen Gullickson, professor emeritus of WMU and Ms. Lindsey Akers Noakes, a graduate student in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Evaluation. Below is an abstract of the book and we highly recommend it!

Abstract: This practical guide can be used by individual teachers or collaboratively as a study guide for a learning community. The authors describe an effective four-step process for improving teachers' formative assessment practices that provides opportunities to reflect, consider alternative instructional approaches, and apply what they have learned. Case studies provide examples of formative assessment in practice, along with examples of teacher-implemented changes. A companion website includes an array of tools and templates for organizing, gathering, and systematically using information to strengthen formative assessment skills.

Call for Posters: We Want to Know About Your Assessment of Student Learning Projects

If you are working on an assessment of student learning project and would like to share your ideas with others, let us know. We are looking for faculty, staff and graduate students who would be willing to share their work in assessment via a poster session to be held in conjunction with the WMU Assessment in Action Days Conference in March 2013. Please contact Karen Stokes Chapo if you are interested in participating: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

UASC Individual and Unit Assessment Awards

It is not too soon to start thinking about nominations for the [University Assessment Excellence Award](#) and [University Individual Assessment Excellence Award](#). If you would like to submit a nomination for the unit award or an application for the individual award, click on the links above for further information. The nominations will tentatively be due on March 1 but this may be subject to change. Awards will be presented at the WMU Assessment in Action Day conference on March 22, 2013. For questions, contact Dave Reinhold at: david.reinhold@wmich.edu

Assessment Conferences

For a list of upcoming assessment conferences, go to this web site:
<http://www.assessmentconferences.com/>

Call for Publications: WMU ScholarWorks

If you have published an article or book or have presented on the topic of assessment of or for student learning, we would like to know about it! We would like to create a repository where we can share with our university community and others off campus the great work being done by our faculty, staff and students in this area. If you are interested in having your article or presentation posted on the WMU ScholarWorks Assessment page, please contact Karen Stokes Chapo at: karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu

Assessment Web Site

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

ScholarWorks Assessment Page: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment/>

Assessment Tip

The carrot, the stick, and the right thing to do! Assessment practices and the documentation of assessment results are driven by a variety of internal and external pressures. It is common to hear that accreditation drives the assessment of students in professional fields—or that the HLC is driving our assessment process on campus. While it’s true that accrediting bodies require documentation of assessment practices and results, they are not the only reason for universities to focus on assessment. Students deserve to know what is expected of them in classes and what they will gain from completing a program. Faculty need to know whether students are achieving the intended learning goals so curricula can be improved. Support for faculty and staff engaged in assessment is available at WMU—grants for assessment projects, workshops to help create assessment tools, and one-on-one consulting with “assessment experts” on campus. Contact Karen Stokes Chapo or Dave Reinhold for more information.