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ScholarWorks at WMU

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Assessment Matters @ WMU

Assessment

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Spring 2-2013

## Assessment Matters #17, Feb 2013

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 2013-Issue #17**

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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](mailto:karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu)

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

I am pleased to see that the interest in assessment of student learning is growing on campus. The increasing number of events and information shared within the pages of this newsletter in the past year are a good indicator of that growth. Please consider being a part of the assessment movement on campus by participating in these and other events throughout the year as you are able.

Best Wishes

Dave Reinhold

Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

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#### ***WMU Assessment in Action Days Conference 2013***

All faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants are invited to attend the Fourth Annual WMU Assessment in Action Conference, March 20-22. Dr. Barbara Walvoord, a renowned author and presenter on the topic of assessment, will be facilitating several days of workshops focused on multiple topics about assessment of student learning. All are invited to attend any of the sessions but some were designed specifically for certain groups. The workshops are planned to provide time to reevaluate what you are doing with your current assessments or to get started in thinking about how you can get involved in measuring student learning outcomes with the goal of continuous improvement. Plan to bring along your assessment plans, syllabus, assessment instruments (surveys, test questions, exams, etc.) as well as rubrics to the workshops for feedback and advice from Dr. Walvoord. Friday, March 22, will be the culmination of the conference featuring a keynote address being delivered by Dr. Walvoord, the announcement of the winners of the University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Excellence Awards, symposium sessions to learn about the assessment efforts of several units on our campus, and a poster session to highlight the 2012-2013 WMU Assessment Fellows projects and other assessment projects. For more information and a complete conference schedule go to the [conference website](#).

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***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](mailto:karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu)

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***National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) -- Now in Progress***

First-year students and seniors are invited to participate in the 2013 NSSE administration, which began on February 5 and runs through March 19. WMU uses data collected from the survey 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 are asked to remind their first-year students and seniors to participate in the 2013 NSSE administration. There will be two more reminder email sent out to all first-year and senior students on March 13 and March 19. Select results are used in the VSA College Portrait (<http://www.collegeportraits.org/MI/WMU>). Results of past NSSE administrations, including a six-year comparison by item, can be viewed at <http://www.wmich.edu/assessment/inst-assess.html>.

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***Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE)***

The 2013 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) will be administered at WMU between March 26 and April 16. All instructors of record for the spring 2013 semester will receive an invitation via email to participate in the survey. 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. If you receive the survey, please take a few minutes to complete it to help WMU improve. Results of past FSSE administrations, including a 6-year comparison by item, can be viewed at <http://www.wmich.edu/assessment/inst-assess.html>.

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***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](mailto:karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu)

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### **HIGHLIGHT: Books on Assessment**

In this issue of Assessment Matters@ WMU, we are featuring the book entitled, “*Assessment Clear and Simple*” by **Dr. Barbara E. Walvoord**. As you know from the article earlier in this newsletter, Dr. Walvoord will be visiting WMU to facilitate several workshops and to provide the keynote address at the Fourth Annual WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference, March 20-22. Below is an abstract of this book and we look forward to learning more from her when she comes to our campus in a few weeks.

**Abstract:** *Assessment Clear and Simple* is “Assessment 101” in a book—a concise, step-by-step guide written for everyone who participates in the assessment process. This practical book helps to make assessment simple, cost-efficient, and useful to the institution, while at the same time meeting the requirements of accreditation, agencies, legislatures, review boards, and others. *Assessment Clear and Simple* explores a variety of topics and can help your institution employ assessment as a powerful instrument for improvement and provide a basis for wiser planning, budgeting, and change in curriculum, pedagogy, staffing, programming and student support.

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### **Assessment Web Site**

For information about assessment at WMU: Events, funding, handbook, resources, rubrics and support, go to [www.wmich.edu/assessment](http://www.wmich.edu/assessment)

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

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### **Assessment Tip**

Why bother with rubrics? A rubric is a tool to help you and your students define the specific expectations for performance on an assignment or activity. Good rubrics take time to develop, but save time when grading student work. Rubrics also give students greater clarity about your expectations and can serve as the basis for self-evaluation and peer review of work prior to your grading. You can access a library of sample rubrics by contacting Karen Stokes Chapo!