



Western Michigan University  
ScholarWorks at WMU

---

Assessment Matters @ WMU

Assessment

---

Fall 2014

## Assessment Matters #20, October 2014

Assessment in Action Committee

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment\\_news](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment_news)



Part of the Educational Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Commons

---

### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

Assessment in Action Committee, "Assessment Matters #20, October 2014" (2014). *Assessment Matters @ WMU*. 20.

[https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment\\_news/20](https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/assessment_news/20)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Assessment at ScholarWorks at WMU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Assessment Matters @ WMU by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact [wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).



# OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT & UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES



## Fall 2014 Newsletter: Issue #20

### WMU Assessment in Action Day 2015

SAVE THE DATE! The WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference will be held on Friday, April 3, 2015. This will be the 6th annual assessment of student learning-themed conference. The conference is open to all WMU, WMU Cooley Law School and WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine faculty, part-time instructors, graduate teaching assistants and staff. We welcome all those who are new to assessment to come and learn best practices in the field as well as those who have developed expertise in this area to share and build upon that knowledge base. Look for more information to come!



[Archive of the past assessment conferences](#) (handouts, presentations and more)



### WMU Assessment Award Winners 2014

Congratulations to the recipients of the UASC Assessment Excellence Individual and Unit Award winners for 2014. Members of the HCOB Advising and Career Center, Betsy Drummer, Geralyn Heystek, and Chris Robinson, won the unit award, and the individual award was given to Kate Langan from the University Libraries.

Each year the University Assessment Steering Committee recognizes one individual and one unit for their assessment efforts and contributions via the University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Excellence Individual and Unit Awards. The awards for 2014 were presented at the annual WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference on Friday, March 21, 2014.

This year, the individual award was presented to Kate Langan, an assistant professor in the University Libraries. She received the award for the chapter she wrote for a book entitled, *“Navigating Assessment and Curricula Changes in Higher Education”*. Kate’s chapter is titled, *“Assessing the Academic Research and Writing Experience of Freshmen in First-Year Writing Courses”*. This chapter discusses the assessment of the experience level of incoming freshman students in regards to academic research and engagement with library materials prior to attending the university and how the data was used to make curricular changes to the English 1050 college-level writing course. The book was published in the summer of 2014 by Sense Publishers from Boston, MA.

The unit award was given to the Haworth College of Business Advising and Career Center who teamed up to develop an assessment project focused on retention called the *Phoenix Project*. They were also

recipients of one of the Assessment Fellows Grants for the 2013-14 academic year, which helped them to fund the project. This unit award was given to Betsy Drummer, the director of Academic Advising, Geralyn Heystek, the director of the Haworth College of Business Career Center, and Chris Robinson, the assistant director of Academic Advising. They were also awarded first place in the Innovation in Business Education Award program sponsored by the MidAmerican Business Deans Association. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Congratulations to Kate, Betsy, Geralyn and Chris for winning these awards in 2014! If you have questions or you would like to learn how to apply for the 2015 Assessment Excellence Awards, please visit this [website](#).

---

### **Back to Basics: Assessment Resources**

If you are looking for resources to help with your assessment efforts, the Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies has a page devoted just for that purpose. Although the entire site is filled with information regarding all things pertaining to assessment at WMU, the [resources](#) page is chock full of an assortment of helpful resources including dates for upcoming assessment conferences, the "WMU Assessment of Student Learning Handbook: Celebrating Learning", TracDat and iWebfolio information, web resources, books and more. And don't forget to mark your calendar for the 6th annual WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference which will take place on **Friday, April 3, 2015**. For more on this exciting event, click [here](#).



### **Spotlight on Assessment at WMU: Assessment Fellows Grants**

Each academic year, in the form of grants called the Assessment Fellows Grants, there is money available in \$5000 increments for up to 5 faculty and/or staff members to fund their program/course or departmental assessment projects. Normally there is \$25,000 available, but the total amount can vary from year to year to fund these types of projects. The grants, sponsored by the University Assessment Steering Committee and the Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, have been offered since 2010, and many faculty and staff have already taken advantage of this great opportunity to support their assessment efforts.

During the year that they receive the grant, recipients meet monthly to share ideas about their projects and to discuss student learning as it pertains to their particular unit or department. They are also required to present a poster to share their project at the annual WMU Assessment in Action Day Conference and to prepare a final report to summarize their work for the academic year that they were awarded the grant.

Ann Chapleau, from the Department of Occupational Therapy, was a recipient of one of the grants in the 2013-14 academic year to fund her project called, "Goal Attainment Scaling: Measurement of Student Learning and Teaching Clinic Outcomes".

In Ann's final report regarding her project, she explains that, "Use of GAS has been shown to be a feasible and useful methodology for measuring both student learning and client outcomes in the OT teaching clinics. More importantly, the GAS findings revealed that students experience significant improvements in clinical competencies during their Level I fieldwork placement, and that their assigned

clients also experience statistically significant functional improvements, achieving expected or better than expected level of goal attainment.”

She also notes in her report, “This project has been very successful in providing a foundation for continued program evaluation within the department. Through training sessions, ongoing support, and the development of electronic records for data collection, an infrastructure has been developed to enable ongoing program evaluation within the teaching clinics. Moreover, success of the study has led to inter-professional collaboration to develop large-scale IPE experiences for our students in the health professions.”

Congratulations to Ann and the other grant recipients on a successful year and we look forward to sharing more of their stories with you in future newsletters. To learn about the projects of other grant recipients, visit the [ScholarWorks Assessment Fellows Grant](#) site. For questions about obtaining a grant, go to the assessment website [grants and awards](#) page.

---

### **Council for Higher Education Accreditation Award**

Each year, the [Council for Higher Education and Accreditation](#) bestows an award to acknowledge outstanding practices in developing and applying evidence of student learning outcomes as part of the ongoing accountability, evaluation and improvement of college and university programs of study called the CHEA Award. The full name of the award is, “CHEA Award for Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes.” Up to 4 awards are made annually and applications for the award can be made institution-wide, focused on a specific program or a specific major. The applications are judged based on the specific award designated.

As a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, WMU and its community members are eligible to be nominated for this award. The time has passed for us to be able to make a nomination for the 2015 award but we would like the University community to know about this opportunity and start to think about the possibility of nominating one of our majors or programs for the 2016 award.

There will be more information to come on this in the coming months as to how we will collect nominations for programs and majors and what criteria will be used for us to decide which application(s) will be chosen to be nominated by WMU. For more information about this award, go [here](#).

---

### **Assessment Tip**

A little effort goes a long way in assessment. For example, consider scheduling an assessment-focused faculty meeting once a semester to review recent results of student work and determine areas for further study. Departments often find that their assessment activities provide important information for planning.

### **Western Michigan University**

Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies  
1903 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5253 USA  
(269) 387-4564