2022 Western Michigan University Assessment in Action Conference

Office of Institutional Effectiveness

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the 12th Annual Assessment in Action Conference hosted by the Western Michigan University Office of Institutional Effectiveness and held virtually on Friday, April 8, 2022.

We are pleased you have joined us and we hope that you find the conference offerings to be educational, informative and helpful and that they will enhance and advance student learning and success in your work at your institutions.

To enhance your conference experience, we have created a shared notes document. There will be a dedicated notetaker for all conference sessions, but you may also add notes to the document as well. This is meant to be a collaborative tool and resource for you now, and after the conference is over.

We have also created a website to house all conference materials, including event recordings and other resources. Check it out and look for more resources to be added later.

Please take a moment to complete the conference feedback form. We look forward to learning about your experience and how we might improve future offerings. After completing the feedback form, you may enter into the book lottery for a chance to win one of six great titles on assessment-related topics! Thank you in advance for your feedback.

Feel free to reach out to me at karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu when I may answer questions or provide additional information. I wish you a wonderful conference experience and all the best in your work ‘so that all may learn’.

Thank you once again for joining us!

Sincerely,
Karen Stokes Chapo

Program Manager Assessment, Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Chair, Assessment in Action Conference Planning Committee
Western Michigan University
www.wmich.edu/assessment

Conference Feedback Form:
https://wmich.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4NSGMf1kDDaBD94
Conference Notes: https://docs.google.com/document/d/17rO0z5TR-hBJmT7JTMacjVkJcX-w88ITXmXZDBCtU6A/edit?usp=sharing
Conference Resource Site:
https://sites.google.com/wmich.edu/assessmentinactionconference22/home
When you join a Webex meeting, open the Chat or Apps panel then click on Slido. (Both are located in the bottom right of the Webex meeting window.) Most sessions will use either the Chat or Slido for attendees to ask questions of the presenters. Conference facilitators will let you know which will be utilized for each session.

Remain on mute unless preparing to speak. This helps reduce noise, e.g., deep breathing. You can press and hold the space bar to temporarily come off mute and speak – think like a walkie-talkie.

Having your camera on is helpful for communication, especially when speaking.

To avoid feedback and echo, keep your speakers and microphone away from each other. An alternative is to wear a headset or ear buds for the best quality.

Consider minimizing the amount of light behind you in favor of light in front of you. This helps to make sure you can be seen more clearly. E.g., avoid sitting with an open window behind you.

All sessions are being recorded. If you would like to opt out, simply leave your microphone and camera off. If you turn them on, you are consenting to be recorded.

Facilitators will participate in each session to aid presenters and provide assistance for attendees if needed.
Virtual Schedule Overview and Event Webex Links

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
Welcome and Panel Discussion

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Breakout Session I (3 options)

11:30 – 12:15 p.m.
Lunch Break

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Breakout Session II (3 options)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Keynote: “Anti-deficit Perspectives on Institutional Diversity Efforts”

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
WMUx Maker’s Lab

URL for live page containing links to join each session:

https://wmich.edu/assessment/2022
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.  Welcome and Panel Discussion
“Back to Basics for Data-Informed Teaching, Learning and Student Success”

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Dr. Christopher Cheatham, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice Provost for Budget and Personnel, Western Michigan University

Panelists:  Dr. Daniel Bureau, Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellbeing, Louisiana State University
Dr. Ciji Heiser, (Moderator) Director of Assessment, Marketing and Communications, Western Michigan University
Dr. Nicole Long, Assistant Vice President, Student Experience and Belonging in the Division of Student Life, University of Delaware
Dr. Darby Roberts, Director of Student Life Studies, Texas A&M University
Dr. Karen Singer-Freeman, Director of Research, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, Wake Forest University

Join us for an engaging discussion with assessment professionals from five different institutions around the topic of learning assessment and using data for continuous improvement. Panelists will share their ideas and experiences and attendees will have time to ask questions.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  Breakout Session I (3 options)

Option 1 - Assessment in Action: TRiO Student Success Program

Presenters: Nathifa Sligh, Candace Bracey, Spencer Myers; WMU TRiO Student Success Program

Facilitator: Ewa Urban; Merze Tate College

TRiO Student Success Program (SSP) will showcase how our program uses data collection and assessment tools to strengthen and elevate the services offered to first-generation students at Western Michigan University. The TRiO SSP overall mission is to maximize the personal and academic success of our students through advocacy, education and holistic development with the vision that our members can prove themselves to be an elite community of purpose-driven students who positively impact the world around them. With the help of consistent and intentional practices, our program can uphold our commitment to students from the moment they obtain membership until completion.

(continued on page 6)
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  (Breakout Session I Cont.)

Option 2 - *WMU Assessment Mini Grant Panel: Part I*

Panelists: Kourtney Bakalyar; Psychology Department  
Katie Easley; Student Success Services, Merze Tate College  
Janet Hahn; School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs  
Megan Slayter (Jeremy Blair); Dance Department

Moderator: Karen Stokes Chapo; Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Facilitators: Tonya Dean; Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Mioara Diaconu; School of Social Work

This session features the 2021 WMU Assessment Mini Grant recipients sharing about the scope of their projects, lessons learned, and insights gained. There will be ample time for attendees to ask questions. For a preview of the projects and to learn more, [click here](#) to watch some brief interviews with the panelists!

Option 3 - *In Their Own Words: Using Empathy Mapping to Create Inclusive Learning Experiences*

Presenters: Jef Fisher, Megan Hess, Alyssa Moon, Matt Strock; WMUx Instructional Design Team

In this session, learn how to begin applying design thinking principles to the course design and revision process to create a more human-centered learning experience. Participants will learn about the technique of empathy mapping and will complete a sample empathy map.

11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  Lunch Break

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12:15 - 1:15 p.m.  Breakout Session II (3 options)

**Option 1 - WMU Gateways to Completion Program Panel**

Panelists: Linda Hanson; Department of Chemistry  
Thayma Lutz; Department of Mathematics  
Monica McCullough; Department of Biological Sciences  
Tabitha Mingus; Department of Mathematics

Moderator: Katie Easley; Student Success Services, Merze Tate College  
Facilitator: Gwen Tarbox; Office of Faculty Development, WMUx

The Gateways to Completion (G2C) program focuses on helping WMU students to achieve success early on in their academic career through the use of planning, engaging pedagogies, analytic tools and expertise from the Gardner Institute. WMU’s G2C team consists of faculty, graduate assistants, part-time instructors, advisors, student success staff, administrators and peer educators who have all come together to address equity gaps for historically marginalized students through this program. Come learn about the work we are doing to create conditions in which all students may learn and thrive in their gateway courses.

**Option 2 - WMU Assessment Mini Grant Panel: Part II**

Panelists: Adrienne Fraaza; Office of Student Transitions  
Ewa Urban; Merze Tate College  
Brian Gogan; Department of English

Moderator: Karen Stokes Chapo; Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Facilitators: Tonya Dean; Office of Institutional Effectiveness  
Mioara Diaconu; School of Social Work

This session features the 2021 WMU Assessment Mini Grant recipients sharing about the scope of their projects, lessons learned, and insights gained. There will be ample time for attendees to ask questions. For a preview of the projects and to learn more, [click here](#) to watch some brief interviews with our panelists!

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12:15 - 1:15 p.m.  (Breakout Session II Cont.)

Option 3 - **Level Up: Aligning Assessment Approach with the Phases of Knowledge Transfer**

Presenters: Megan Hess, Jef Fisher, Alyssa Moon, Matt Strock; WMUx Instructional Design Team

Engage with other participants during this interactive session. In this session, we will discuss alignment between learning outcomes and assessment through the various levels of learning and domains of instruction. Participants will have the opportunity to practice using formative assessment tools, as well as the SOLO taxonomy model during various virtual activities. Walk away with strategies, tools, and resources that can be used to align outcomes and assessments in any learning experience.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  **Keynote**

**Anti-deficit Perspectives on Institutional Diversity Efforts**

**Special Guest Speaker:** Dr. EJ Edney, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, University of Mississippi

Facilitators: Karen Stokes Chapo; Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Jennifer Townsend; Lee Honors College

Institutions of higher learning are central to preparing people to shape the world in which we live. Yet widening opportunity gaps evidence a need for structural change that increases access and improves outcomes for all students. It is important to consider the lens through which practitioners assess and address the unique challenges and opportunities of an increasingly diverse student population. This session will focus on developing anti-deficit approaches to providing the kinds of opportunities that help solve our most pressing DEI challenges.

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2:45 – 3:45 p.m. WMUx Makers Lab: Designing and Measuring Transformational Outcomes

Presenters: Matt Strock, Jef Fisher, Megan Hess, Alyssa Moon; WMUx Instructional Design Team, Gwen Tarbox; Office of Faculty Development, WMUx

In this interactive session, you will design a transformation--an outcome focused on a change in thinking and ability--and a brief curriculum plan to foster that transformation. Using a clothesline method, you will then identify an authentic performance task, objectives, and measures that align with your transformation. You will work individually with paper and pen and collaborate with others in breakout rooms to share and further develop your ideas. It will be highly interactive, so come prepared to share ideas and don't forget to bring paper and a writing utensil.
Assessment in Action
Conference Planning Committee

Tonya Dean, Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Mioara Diaconu, School of Social Work

Ciji Heiser, Division of Student Affairs

Megan Hess, WMUx

Kevin Knutson, College of Arts and Sciences, Academic Advising

Alyssa Moon, WMUx

Daria Orlowska, University Libraries

Karen Stokes Chapo, Office of Institutional Effectiveness (Chair)

Gwen Tarbox, Office of Faculty Development, WMUx

Jennifer Townsend, Lee Honors College

Ewa Urban, Merze Tate College
The Office of Institutional Effectiveness at WMU wishes to thank:

Assessment in Action Conference Planning Committee

Dr. Christopher Cheatham

Dr. Daniel Bureau
   Dr. EJ Edney
   Dr. Nicole Long
   Dr. Ciji Heiser
   Dr. Darby Roberts
   Dr. Karen Singer-Freeman

Jef Fisher, Megan Hess, Alex Kowitz, Alyssa Moon,
   and Matt Strock

Jacob Neumann

All Conference Presenters and Facilitators

University Assessment Steering Committee

Thanks to all of you who attended the conference!

We hope you will plan to join us again!