



Spring 2015

Western Michigan University Assessment in Action Conference 2015

Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

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Western Michigan University
Assessment in Action Conference
Friday, April 3, 2015

Conference Schedule

Poster Session and Continental Breakfast: 8-9 a.m.
Fetzer Center, Lobby

Join us in the Fetzer lobby for a continental breakfast and poster session to learn about the projects of the Western Michigan University Assessment Fellows for the 2014-15 academic year. This will be a casual event where you can mingle with colleagues and ask questions of the poster presenters.

Plenary Session and Presentation of the University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Excellence Awards 2015: 9-10 a.m.

Let's Talk Assessment!

Fetzer Center, Room 1010

Facilitator: David Reinhold, Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

This interactive discussion will highlight some of the main topics of assessment. Attendees will be asked to respond to various questions regarding assessment issues using clickers and this will be followed by a group discussion of the results. The session will also lay the framework for the sessions later in the day.

Breakout Session 1: 10:10-11 a.m.

Academic Unit Assessment Panel

Fetzer Center, Room 2016

Presenters: Betsy Aller, Dept. of Engineering Design, Manufacturing and Management Systems
James Cousins, Department of History
Barbara Sagara, Business Information Systems

Three assessment practitioners will discuss their experiences with assessment activities, successes, and lessons learned, with time for Q&A.

Student Support Unit Assessment Panel

Fetzer Center, Room 2020

Moderator: Anne Lundquist, Division of Students Affairs

Presenters: Laura Darrah, Residence Life
Dianna Sachs, University Libraries
Kate Bates & Chris Sligh, Student Activities and Leadership Programs

Staff in 3 Student Support Units will share information and lessons learned:

- Laura Darrah, Residence Life: Using National Benchmark Data for Affirmation, Improvement and Change
- Diana Sachs, University Library: Direct and Indirect Assessment Initiatives, including studies of student and faculty satisfaction, learning, and perception of library resources and services.
- Chris Sligh and Kate Bates, Student Activities and Leadership Programs: Sharing Outcomes and Results: Using Assessment to Tell Your Story

Rubrics: The Good, the Great and the Awesome

Fetzer Center, Room 2030

Presenter: David Reinhold, Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

The basic contents of a good rubric will be discussed, as well as the versatility of rubrics. The session will spend some time on rubric calibration and introduce how rubrics can be used for both grading and assessment.

Break: 11-11:15 a.m.

Fetzer Center, Lobby

Breakout Session 2: 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.

Writing Your Student Support Unit Assessment Plan: Tips, Techniques, and Resources

Fetzer Center, Room 2016

Presenter: Anne Lundquist, Division of Students Affairs
Cari Robertson, Health Promotion and Education

Working on your student support unit assessment plan? Want some guidance on how to get started, keep moving, or wrap it up? Anne Lundquist, Director of Strategic Planning and Assessment for the Division of Student Affairs, and Cari Robertson, Director of Health Promotion and Education at Sindecuse and chair of the University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) will share tips, suggestions and ideas for any phase of the process. They will also highlight best practices from other institutions.

Using Assessments to Improve Teaching and Learning

Fetzer Center, Room 2020

Presenter: Amy Bentz, Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies

In this session we will discuss the differences between formative and summative assessments, as well as how to utilize both types of assessment strategies to improve learning and teaching. Best practices will be shared and specific examples will be provided. You will leave this session with multiple assessment techniques that can be utilized in your own classroom.

Rubrics: The Good, the Great and the Awesome (repeated)

Fetzer Center, Room 2030

Presenter: David Reinhold, Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

The basic contents of a good rubric will be discussed, as well as the versatility of rubrics. The session will spend some time on rubric calibration and introduce how rubrics can be used for both grading and assessment.

Breakout Session 3: 12:15-1:05 p.m.

Writing Observable and Measurable Learning Objectives

Fetzer Center, Room 2016

Presenter: Eli Collins-Brown, Office of Faculty Development

This session will show how to write learning objectives (or outcomes) that are useful to the student and essential for faculty who want to improve student learning and assessment in their courses. Writing observable and measurable outcomes is not a difficult task once you learn the process to follow. By the end of this session, participants will be able to distinguish between content, learning activities and learning objectives and apply the three-step process for writing observable and measurable learning objectives.

Assessment Resources: How Do I Find the Help I Need?

Fetzer Center, Room 2030

Presenter: Karen Stokes Chapo, Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

If you are searching for best practices for assessment and/or education and assistance with all things pertaining to assessment of student learning, this session will show you where to find some reliable and useful resources including information about local assessment conferences.

You've Collected Tons of Assessment Data, Now What?

Fetzer Center, Room 2020

Presenter: David Reinhold, Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

The early results of Academic Program Planning indicate that many units within the university are having issues with closing the assessment loop. Data is gathered and reported, but often times, program improvements are not the result of data analysis. This session will discuss how we can keep our eye on the assessment prize, continuous improvement.

Lunch and Round Table Discussion: 1:05-2:30 p.m.

Fetzer Center, Banquet Room 1035-1045

Join us for a luncheon and round table discussion and opportunity to network with colleagues from WMU and beyond. Be sure to stay to find out if you have won any of the great prizes we plan to give away!