

ASSESSMENT MATTERS

A newsletter of the University Assessment Steering Committee to disseminate information on tools, education & training, and best practices for assessment at WMU.

November 2007-Issue #1

Welcome to the first university wide issue of Assessment Matters! We hope to keep the WMU community informed about activities relating to assessment through this e-mail newsletter. We plan on having two issues per semester in the fall and spring. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact: Karen Stokes at karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

University Faculty Assessment Grants:

The UASC has selected a recipient for the 2007-08 University Faculty Assessment Grant Program. The College of Education's Office of Field Placements and the School/University Partnership Team will examine the current measurements used to document elementary and secondary intern teacher growth. This proposal was submitted by Lynn Nations Johnson, Director of the School/University Partnership Team. To review prior award projects visit www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac

PATHS: (Panels on Assessment: Training, Help, & Support)

Topic: Developing Rubrics for Assessment

Mark your calendar for the first of several PATHS sessions which will be held on Wednesday, November 13, in room 205 of the Bernhard Center. This session will be held from 9 to 11 AM and the format will include brief comments from the panel followed by questions from the audience. Panel members include: Michael C. Braun, Katherine Cummings, Regena Fails-Nelson, and Marianne Frauenknecht.

WMU Fall 2007 Portfolio Contest:

All WMU students can participate in the WMU Fall 2007 Portfolio Contest. Portfolios created using iWebfolio can be submitted for a chance to win one of four \$250 prizes. For further information about the contest, please go to the following website:

http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/WMU_Portfolio_Contest.php

If you have any questions concerning the contest, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

Assessment Excellence Awards:

Coming soon, look for an announcement regarding Assessment Excellence Awards which will provide an opportunity to show individual and unit level accomplishment in assessment of student learning.

TracDat Update:

A new version of the assessment tool TracDat has been installed at WMU. If you previously had an account in TracDat, you can sign in with the same username and password you used before. This new version of TracDat brings with it many great new features but you will also find that these enhancements did not change the overall goal of the software which was to provide you with a place to organize and keep an accurate historical picture of your assessment plan and the findings from your assessment methods. There is a new URL for TracDat version 4 and you can sign in by going to the following web address: <https://tracdatp.cc.wmich.edu:8443/tracdat/> If you have any questions or if you would like to set up an account, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

UASC Annual Report:

For a copy of the 2007 UASC Annual Report to the Faculty Senate visit:
[http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/Annual ASSESSMENT Report 07.pdf](http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/Annual%20ASSESSMENT%20Report%2007.pdf)

Best Practices:

The Assessment in Action sub-committee of the UASC is announcing the first Notable Outcomes of Best Practices to be featured in the Assessment Portfolio, submitted by Linda Ickes, Associate Director, Career & Student Employment Services. To review Linda's submission visit the Assessment in Action tab in the Portfolio and click on the Division of Student Affairs form the menu on the left.
[www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU Assessment](http://www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU%20Assessment)

Assessment Tip:

Rubrics clarify expectations for students and ease faculty workload when assessing student work. Good rubrics take time to develop, but often result in better student performance and more consistent assessment of student work.

LINKS:

University Assessment www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac

Assessment Portfolio www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU Assessment
Assessment Toolbox www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/toolbox/Page1