

ASSESSMENT MATTERS

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

April 2008-Issue #4

Welcome to the fourth issue of Assessment Matters! If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact: Karen Stokes at karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

UASC New Member Orientation

The University Assessment Steering Committee (UASC) is holding its second annual new member orientation on Monday, May 19, 2008 at 1 p.m. in room 3150 Schneider Hall. This session is geared toward helping the new 2008-2009 UASC members become familiar with the committee's work. Anyone considering joining the UASC is welcome. Please RSVP to: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

Workshop on Scholarship in Teaching and Learning

On Friday, May 30, 2008 a workshop will be held at the College of Health and Human Services to discuss scholarship in teaching and learning. Panel discussions with various presenters will be held to talk about research, teaching, learning and leadership, and how to have your work published, just to name a few of the topics. Dr. David J. Malik, professor of Chemical Education and Physical Chemistry at Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis, Dr. Edmund Tsang, Director of The Center for Excellence in Engineering Education at Western and Dr. Betsy Aller, professor of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at Western, will be among the presenters.

Voluntary System of Accountability

WMU has become the first university in Michigan and one of the first in the nation to launch a Web-based tool aimed at providing prospective students and their families a consistent and comprehensive look at critical data that will help them make institutional comparisons. The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) is a joint project of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Participating colleges and universities will post their data using a template called the VSA College Portrait. The template ensures that the data have a consistent look for all participating institutions. WMU's College Portrait went live on April 3, with a link to the information prominently placed on the WMU Home page. The University has been designated as an "Early Adopter" of

the VSA and has been authorized to add that designation to its site. Congratulations WMU!

2008 Assessment Institute

Plan ahead! This year's Assessment Institute will be held October 26-28, 2008 in Indianapolis. The Assessment Institute is the nation's oldest and largest event focused exclusively on outcomes assessment in higher education. It is held by Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). For more information, see <http://planning.iupui.edu/conferences/national/nationalconf.html>

Portfolio Contest Winners

WMU Spring 2008 Portfolio Contest winners were announced on April 21. There were three prizes given for the best portfolios and the winners were Kristine Crummel, Matthew Feltner and Lisa Fisher. There was also an excellent portfolio created by Chelsea Sharp that won an honorable mention. To see the winning portfolios, please go to the following website: <http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/WMU Portfolio Contest2.php>

Assessment Impact Reports on TracDat

In the fall of 2009, all departments will be required to turn in their Assessment Impact reports using the software tool TracDat. If you would like to learn more about this tool or if you need a refresher on how to use it, please contact Karen Stokes to schedule a training session. Individual or small group sessions work best for effective training. To schedule a session, please send an email to: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

Assessment Tip

The process of assessment is one of comparing actual student performance with intended student outcomes. In other words, how well do our students achieve the objectives set for them? Assessment requires us to be clear about what students should know and be able to do---and specific about how we will measure student performance.

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