

ASSESSMENT MATTERS @ WMU

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

November 2008-Issue #5

Welcome! Please forward this to anyone that may have an interest in assessment. For suggestions or comments, please contact: Karen Stokes at karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

University Faculty Assessment Grants

The UASC has selected three recipients for the 2008-09 University Assessment Grant Program: Carla Chase (Occupational Therapy), Marcia Feters (Teaching, Learning and Education Studies), and Joyce Walker (English). We commend these folks on their assessment efforts and wish them much success!

UASC Assessment Excellence Awards Luncheon

On October 10, a luncheon was held to recognize the contributions of the department assessment committees and to recognize the winner of the First Annual University Assessment Steering Committee Individual Assessment Excellence Award. The award is devoted to research in student learning and work in assessment for program improvement, resulting in an article in a peer review journal. The 2008-09 winner, Brad Dennis, from the University Library, received the award for his article entitled “*Using Content Analysis Software to Analyze Survey Comments.*” Dr. Susan Hatfield was the guest speaker and her presentation was called: “*Black Holes and Gaseous Processes: Big Mistakes in Assessment.*” For information about the award and Dr. Hatfield’s presentation, see: www.iwebfolio.com/public/stokesk. The award and luncheon were sponsored by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

WMU Fall 2008 Portfolio Contest

All WMU students can participate in the WMU Fall 2008 Portfolio Contest. Portfolios created using iWebfolio can be submitted for a chance to win one of five \$100 prizes. For further information about the contest, please go to the following website:

[http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/WMU Portfolio Contest.php](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

TACT (Traveling Assessment Consultation Teams)

These teams are now being organized and will soon be available to any department or individual interested in help with learning assessment basics, reviewing their assessment plan, using TracDat and other assessment related topics. The University wants to provide a support system to further assessment efforts on campus and to help everyone become successful in their assessment endeavors. Look for more information to come on this exciting new program! If you have any questions about TACT, you can contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

Dean's Annual Assessment Reports

This year's Dean's assessment reports are now available at: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac.html>. The due date for the next set of reports is August 1, 2009. The UASC is recommending to the provost that deans be given a choice to report for the previous academic year or calendar year. Part of this report includes the Assessment Impact Reports that are completed by each department. These Assessment Impact Reports will be required to be turned in 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. For questions regarding the Dean's Annual Assessment Reports, please contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Panels on Training, Assessment, Help and Support (PATHS)

There were two PATHS sessions offered this fall to provide a forum for information sharing and dialog. The first session called "Rubrics, Rubrics, Rubrics!" discussed how to create a functional and effective rubric. The second session called "Assessment: What Is It Good For?" focused on the benefits of engaging in assessment of student learning outcomes. For those of you that missed these valuable sessions, they will be offered again in the spring semester, dates and times pending. For handouts and presentations from previous sessions, see: www.iwebfolio.com/public/stokesk

Assessment Conference

"Aligning Pedagogy, Curriculum & Assessment," the 2009 NC State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium (<http://www.ncsu.edu/assessment/symposium/index.htm>) will be held at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC, April 24-26, 2009. The call for papers was due on October 31, but it is worth attending, as it is one of the two main assessment conferences offered every year.

UASC New Member Orientation

For those new members of the UASC committee who were not able to attend the new member orientation that was held last May, there is a power point presentation that was presented and this can be accessed at: <http://www.iwebfolio.com/public/stokesk>

Assessment Tip

Focus on overall “intended student outcomes” for the program to make assessment manageable. Rather than writing a separate outcome for each concept taught in the program, create outcomes that reflect categories of student learning and performance. Remember that each intended student outcome will be measured by multiple assessments.

LINKS

University Assessment www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac

Assessment Portfolio [www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU Assessment](http://www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU%20Assessment)

Assessment Toolbox www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/toolbox/Page1