

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.

February 2009-Issue #6

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

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

There are two PATHS sessions being offered this spring to provide a forum for information sharing and dialog. The first session is called "Rubrics, Rubrics, Rubrics!" and panelists will discuss how to create a functional and effective rubric. This session will be held on March 13 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Richmond Center for Visual Arts, room 2008. The second session will focus on how to write useable and obtainable outcome statements. The date and time for this second session are to be announced. For more information about the upcoming sessions, and for resources and presentations from previous sessions on these topics, see: www.iwebfolio.com/public/stokesk

Faculty Assessment Grants

The deadline for submitting applications for Western Michigan University's next round of Faculty Assessment Grants, valued at up to \$5,000 each, is Wednesday, April 15. The Faculty Assessment Grants Program provides resources for conducting student-learning outcomes research and is administered by the University Assessment Steering Committee. The UASC announces grant recipients by June 1, and funding is made available in the new academic year. Up to \$30,000 in grants is awarded annually. To be considered for funding, research projects must lead to activities or program improvements that are directly related to student learning or achievement on WMU's main campus or at its branch campuses and extended sites. For more information, please contact Kristin Lagerquist at: kristin.lagerquist@wmich.edu

WMU Spring 2009 Portfolio Contest

All WMU students can participate in the WMU Spring 2009 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/contest/>

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

Scholarship on Teaching and Learning Workshop (SOTL)

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning workshop will be held this year on Friday, May 29, 2009. It is an all day event beginning at 8:00 a.m. and continuing until 4:00 p.m. The workshop will be held in the College of Health and Human Services. This year 40 invitations will be submitted to a variety of faculty involved in the assessment and the scholarship of teaching and learning. The guest speaker is Kathleen McKinney from Illinois State University. For questions regarding the SOTL workshop, please contact Kristin Lagerquist at: kristin.lagerquist@wmich.edu

2009 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis (IUPUI)

The 2009 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis will be held on October 25 to 27, 2009. Proposals are due by **March 20** and can be submitted by using the following link: <http://planning.iupui.edu/institute/callforproposals> For information about suggested and preferred proposal topics and for more information about the conference, please go to the following website: <http://www.planning.iupui.edu/institute>

Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference

The 114th annual meeting of the NCA/The Higher Learning Commission is being held April 17 to 21, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois. The Annual Meeting offers a broad range of sessions and services that include: multiple pre-conference workshops, approximately 200 general program sessions, an exhibit hall, a resource center and PEAQ Self-Study Fair. Registration is now open. For more information, see: <http://www.ncahlc.org/index.php> then click on the link Annual Meeting in the left-hand column.

Assessment Conference: North Carolina State University

“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 to 26, 2009. This is a great conference and worth attending, as it is one of the two main assessment conferences offered every year.

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 at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu Individual or small group sessions work best for effective training. For questions regarding the Dean's Annual Assessment Reports, please contact the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

TracDat Hands-On Sessions

As you are aware, the assessment impact reports that are due to be turned in on August 1, 2009, need to be turned in using TracDat. In order to assure that everyone who needs training in TracDat receives the training that they need, we will be holding several hands-on training sessions for small groups in the upcoming months. These sessions will be held in Henry Hall in the Student Academic and Institutional Research department at a variety of different times to accommodate the needs of the campus community. Look for more information to come about these sessions in the near future. Please do not wait for these sessions if you know that you need training now. To set up an individual or small group session now, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness Has a New Website!

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has revamped its website in order to provide an easier access point for information about accreditation and certification, academic program planning, assessment, and the Instructor and Course Evaluation System. To view the new website, see: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/>

Please check out the website and if you have any questions or would like to offer feedback, you may contact Kristin Lagerquist at: kristin.lagerquist@wmich.edu

Assessment Tip

Clarify the purpose of the assessment. Will the results be used to assign grades to students? To suggest curriculum improvements? To meet accreditation standards? It's sometimes possible to have a single assessment serve multiple purposes by creating different rubrics. For example, the results of comprehensive exams in graduate programs are used to determine whether a candidate can continue in the program. The same results can inform curriculum decisions when assessed against overall program goals.

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