

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.

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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

New Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

Dr. David Reinhold has been assigned the position of Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies as of July 1, 2009. Dr. Reinhold will be taking over the responsibility of university-wide assessment from Dr. Eileen Evans as one of his responsibilities. In this role, Dr. Reinhold will be involved with the University Assessment Steering Committee and the Assessment in Action group. He will continue his role with general education assessment by supervising the administration of the Collegiate Learning Assessment Exam and developing new procedures for the assessment of general education.

Assessment Site Reorganization

Assessment information is still found under Institutional Effectiveness on the WMU website, but it can now also be accessed under <http://www.wmich.edu/assessment/> and "Assessment" is in the A-Z directory of the WMU website. We are in the process of rearranging the information on this site and will be adding more information soon, which we hope will be useful to everyone working with assessment at Western.

2009 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis (IUPUI)

[The 2009 Assessment Institute](#) at the Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis will be held at the Westin Indianapolis October 25-27, 2009. The deadline for registration for this year has passed but it is not too early to start thinking about proposals for next year's conference!

Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference

[Conference on Quality in Higher Education](#), the 115th Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission will be held in Chicago April 9 -13, 2010. Proposals are due by October 12, 2009.

Atlantic Assessment Conference

The [Atlantic Assessment Conference](#) grew out of the North Carolina State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium and is organized in collaboration with Meredith College and the Virginia Assessment Group. It will still be held in Cary, NC - April 11-12, 2010. The conference theme is "Collaboration in a Changing World." Proposals are due by November 2, 2009.

Rubric Award Team Competition

Western Michigan University department chairs and program directors have the opportunity to recruit master's students to help set scoring criteria for the University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Award, the UAA, and to qualify for a prize up to \$1,000. Nominations are due by October 21. The University Assessment Steering Committee is asking for teams of master's students from a broad array of majors to develop a rubric, or scoring criteria, for the new award that supports the efforts of graduate students engaged in research-related assessment. Winners will be announced during the annual Research Day celebration in April, and cash awards of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250 will be given to the top three teams. Winning proposals will be used to compile criteria for the first UAA honor, which is scheduled for the 2010-11 academic year and also awards cash prizes. For more information, please contact Amy Curtis: amy.curtis@wmich.edu, Marianne Di Pierro: marianne.dipierro@wmich.edu or Dave Reinhold: david.reinhold@wmich.edu

Watch for Assessment Day at WMU in March!

WMU will hold its first annual Assessment Day on one of the Fridays in March 2010 after spring break. Assessment Day, sponsored by the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies, will be comprised of a keynote speaker, multiple hands on sessions on various assessment topics, and a luncheon to award this academic year's Assessment Excellence Award. Please watch for the date and more information on this exciting opportunity to network with your colleagues, hone your assessment skills and celebrate with the University community our continued efforts to strive for excellence in assessment work.

WMU Fall 2009 Portfolio Contest

All WMU students can participate in the WMU Fall 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

Assessment Tip

Faculty often struggle to find time for assessment activities and for analyzing the results of student assessments. It's smart to set aside specific times to work on assessment each semester or year—perhaps even scheduling an “assessment day” when faculty can work together to develop assessments, analyze the results of assessments, and plan for program improvements.

University Assessment Web Site: www.wmich.edu/assessment