

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 2010-Issue #9

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

A Word from the Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies

The Office of Assessment and Undergraduate Studies would like to remind you of two upcoming programs to mark on your calendars. First is Assessment in Action scheduled for Friday, March 12. The all-day program will consist of workshops on various assessment topics and a keynote presentation from Jillian Kinzie, an expert in the assessment of first year programs. The goal is to have enlightened discussions about assessment that will help individuals in all areas of the university improve their assessment efforts. In addition, assessment award winners will be announced and this year's Assessment Fellows will give presentations on their research projects. The second event is the third annual Scholarship of Teaching and Learning workshop that will occur May 21. This year, the workshop will be open to the entire university community. The program is designed to aid anyone who is interested in research associated with teaching and learning. More details about the SoTL workshop will be available as the date approaches.

Assessment in Action at WMU

Assessment in Action is the title for the upcoming gathering for the WMU community to meet and to learn and share ideas about assessment. Planning is happening at a record pace and all is on track for a day filled with lots of great assessment information! The event is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with check-in from 8:30 to 9 a.m. at the Fetzer Center. The keynote address, "*Creating Clear Pathways: Assessing and Enhancing the First Year Experience at WMU*", will be provided by Jillian Kinzie, Associate Director, Center for Postsecondary Research & NSSE Institute, Indiana University. Anyone can attend some or all of the sessions and the events scheduled for the day. If you think you would like to attend, please send an email to Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu. RSVP is required only for the lunch, but we would like to be able to accommodate everyone who attends comfortably.

The session titles are listed below:

- 1) *Appreciating the A Word - Putting a Plan in Action (for non degree awarding units)*
- 2) *Assessment for Improvement: Closing the Loop (for degree awarding units)*
- 3) *Extreme Makeover: Assessment Plans Edition*

- 4) *Tool Time: Assessment Tools*
- 5) *University Support for Assessment: 2009-10 Assessment Fellow's Projects*

For more information go to: <http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/assessment-day.html>

And look for more details to come!

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. It is not too late to register so don't miss this great opportunity!

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." Early registration receives a \$30 discount on registration fees and will be available Jan 4 to Feb 19, 2010.

WMU Fall 2009 Portfolio Contest

The names of the winners of the WMU Fall 2009 Portfolio Contest and some of the winning portfolios can be viewed at: <http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/contest/winners.html>
There were many excellent portfolios submitted into the contest and we would like to thank all of the students for their participation. For questions concerning the contest, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

WMU Spring 2010 Portfolio Contest

All WMU students can participate in the WMU Spring 2010 Portfolio Contest. Portfolios created using iWebfolio can be submitted for a chance to win one of three \$150 prizes. Portfolios need to be submitted by April 19 at midnight to be eligible for the contest. For further information about the contest, please go to the following website:

<http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/contest/>

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

HLC Self-Study Report Available Soon

The HLC self-study steering committee will be releasing the first draft of the self-study report on February 12, 2010. The draft will be available at

<http://www.wmich.edu/poapa/accreditation/SelfStudyReportDraft.pdf>.

Open comment sessions are planned for Thursday, February 25 and Tuesday, March 9. Both sessions will be held in the Martin Luther King, Jr. room in the Bernhard Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Comments and questions can also be sent to wmu-hlc@wmich.edu.

Assessment Tip

The use of formative assessments has been linked to improved student learning. Formative assessments can be as simple as “response cards” used at the end of a class session or the use of “clickers” to gather student responses during a lecture class. Formative assessments help students identify what’s important and help teachers identify where students are struggling. The results of formative assessments can be used to plan subsequent lessons, including any re-teaching that may be needed to promote student learning.

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