

# Western Michigan University Assessment Excellence Award

The University Assessment Steering Committee has established an Assessment Excellence Award for the purpose of recognizing and showcasing outstanding efforts in the area of assessment at WMU. Assessment is defined as the systematic collection and use of the results of student learning and academic program quality to determine the achievement of goals and objectives.

An outstanding assessment process is characterized by the use of the results of assessment to improve the activities being assessed. Therefore, criteria for selection will emphasize the demonstration of program improvements as a result of the assessment program. There are two types of recognition awards: a unit award and an individual award.

## Unit Award

**Who is eligible:** This award is open to academic departments and non-instructional units that have a UASC-approved assessment plan.

**How a unit is considered for the award:** Departments / work units who have submitted their annual assessment reports, may subsequently submit an application that includes a brief report highlighting improvements attributed to the assessment process, evaluation and improvement of the assessment plan, and/or other achievements that raise their assessment activities to a level of excellence.

**Award criteria:** The following criteria will be used as a basis for evaluating the assessment achievements of the unit:

- Evidence shows that assessment data are being used to improve program quality.
- The assessment plan contains elements that are achievable, usable, and sustainable.
- Assessment activities are being conducted in accordance with the plan timetable.
- Evidence shows that the unit has a strong commitment to assessment.
- Informal assessment activities (those not specifically detailed in the assessment plan) have occurred and led to program improvements.
- Evidence shows other exemplary assessment achievements that influence the culture of accountability at WMU.

## Individual Award

**Who is eligible:** This award is open to any WMU employee who has authored or co-authored an article about assessment or assessment activities.

**How is an article nominated?** The author(s) may submit their published article for consideration or someone else may recommend an article for submission.

**Article criteria:**

- The article must be published (or accepted for publication) in a peer-reviewed journal, proceedings or equivalent venue.

- The article may report on specific research conducted in the area of assessment.
- or**
- The article may be a report on the practical application of specific assessment methodology that has resulted in feedback and has led to improvement in the academic (or other) program. The link between methodology, data, and program improvement must be clearly evident.

**Winner:** The winner of the individual award will receive a cash prize and University wide recognition.

### Schedule

The Unit Award will normally be made every other year and will coincide with the submission of the unit's biannual assessment report. The Individual Award will normally be made every year.

The application for consideration of the 2010 award must be submitted to the UASC no later than January 15, 2010. Awards will be announced by early March.

### Procedure

**Unit Award:** A self-generated application will consist of the name of the unit and the person submitting, along with a brief essay explaining how the unit's assessment activities warrant recognition. It should relate the unit's activities and accomplishments to the award criteria and highlight areas of the assessment impact report that support the claim. A copy of the unit's most recent assessment impact report should also be included. The UASC will review each submission and select a winner.

**Individual Award:** The author will submit a self-generated application, which will consist of the name of the author(s) and person submitting the application (if other than the author), along with contact information. A copy of the article and information about the publishing venue and dates of publication must also be submitted. The UASC will review each submission and select a winner.

**Submissions:** Applications should be submitted electronically to:

Dr. David Reinhold, Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies  
B125 Henry Hall  
Western Michigan University  
1903 W. Michigan Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5253  
Telephone: 269-387-4564, E-mail: [davd.reinhold@wmich.edu](mailto:davd.reinhold@wmich.edu)