

## Office of Institutional Effectiveness News - Spring 2021

Office of Institutional Effectiveness <karen.stokeschapo@wmich.edu>

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To: Kathleen K Springsteen <kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu>



**Welcome** to the second edition of "Creating Coherence for Success". The spring semester is well under way and there is much news to share with you. We hope you find what we share to be a helpful and useful tool in your work to strive for continuous improvement and student success.

**Please pass this message along to anyone you think might be interested.**

## Accreditation

### **Higher Learning Commission Reaffirmation of Accreditation**

WMU's preparation for our April 2021 Reaffirmation of Accreditation evaluation by the Higher Learning Commission is underway, and the finish line is quickly approaching!

First drafts of the assurance argument report were completed by the criterion writing teams in summer 2020, and we have since incorporated feedback from our internal team of HLC-trained peer reviewers. The process of revising the second draft of the assurance argument is coming to a close, and our final draft will be published with opportunities for campus input in February 2021.

We have prepared and will be sharing a series of videos in order to highlight WMU's accomplishments, generate awareness of the reaffirmation process, and share WMU's story of evolution over the last decade. Two episodes, "Preparing for Comprehensive Evaluation" and "So That All May Learn," are live on our website at [wmich.edu/hlc](http://wmich.edu/hlc). These videos highlight and demonstrate our successes and initiatives over the last 10 years and are part of an ongoing series.

WMU's Reaffirmation of Accreditation peer reviewer visit will occur on April 12-13, 2021. Please continue to check WMU's HLC webpage at [wmich.edu/hlc](http://wmich.edu/hlc) for additional information and updates.

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## Specialized Program Accreditation

Accredited programs are eligible for reimbursement of their annual maintenance of accreditation fees. Programs have until June 15, 2021 to email requests to Cathie Springsteen, ([kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu](mailto:kathleen.springsteen@wmich.edu)), assistant director, integrated program review and accreditation. Please include a copy of the original invoice and proof that payment was initiated (e.g., receipt, Procard statement, signed voucher, etc.). Only one reimbursement for each accredited program is allowed per fiscal year.

## Assessment

### Assessment in Action Conference 2021

*"Using data for continuous improvement, so that all may learn"*

We are pleased to announce that the [11th Annual Assessment in Action Conference](#) will take place **virtually** on **Friday, April 9**. This conference intends to provide a venue to share ideas, insights and best practices about assessing the impact of initiatives and programs in academic and co-curricular environments and using data for continuous improvement so that students can be successful both in and outside of the classroom. All faculty, staff, graduate teaching assistants and administrators are welcome to attend.

We are excited to announce that we are opening the event up to other institutions of higher learning in the state of Michigan so that we may share our resources with our colleagues and provide a venue for collaboration and idea-sharing. Conference planning is still underway, but save the date and look for more information to come soon. For questions, contact [Karen Stokes Chappo](#).

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### Assessment Management System Survey

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness would like your feedback regarding the assessment management software and systems that you utilize for the purpose of the documentation and storage of assessment planning data. What is working well? What could be improved? What may be missing that would be helpful? Please take a moment to share your feedback and comments if you have not already done so. Here is the [link to participate](#). Thank you! For questions, contact [Karen Stokes Chappo](#).

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### Assessment Mini Grants

The University Assessment Steering Committee is now accepting applications for the **2021 Assessment Mini Grant Program**. The purpose of the grant program is to support learning outcomes assessment-related projects and to help advance programs and units at WMU to the next stage of the assessment cycle. Funding of \$10,000 is available this fiscal year, with a maximum award of \$1,000. All full and part-time faculty, staff and graduate students are eligible to apply. Applications are due by **Monday, February 22**, at 8 p.m. EDT. More information can be found at: [wmich.edu/assessment/grants](https://wmich.edu/assessment/grants), and for questions contact [Karen Stokes Chapo](#).

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### **NSSE Pulse (National Survey of Student Engagement )**

In the fall of 2020, Western Michigan University participated in the free NSSE Pulse survey. This brief survey included selected questions from the NSSE that are critical to persistence and was designed to help colleges and universities take the pulse of the undergraduate student experience. We plan to use the results to help identify strengths and areas that may need improvement and to help inform campus action. We had approximately 393 students from all class levels who responded to the survey. We are working on a summary of the results to share with the university community for reference and review. Look for that to become available soon. For more information about the survey visit the NSSE Pulse website at: <https://nsse.indiana.edu/nsse/survey-instruments/pulse/index.html>. For questions, contact [Karen Stokes Chapo](#).

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### **University Assessment Steering Committee Assessment Excellence Awards**

The University Assessment Steering Committee is now accepting nominations for the annual Assessment Excellence Collaboration, Individual and Unit Awards to acknowledge and celebrate assessment work that has led to verifiable improvements in academic or learner support programs. The intent of the awards is to honor and show appreciation for the outstanding work of our colleagues at Western who are using assessment data for continuous improvement of learning. Nominations will be accepted until **Friday, February 26**. For more information and to view the award guidelines visit the assessment website at: <https://wmich.edu/assessment/grants>. For questions, contact [Karen Stokes Chapo](#).

## Evaluation Systems and Curriculum Planning

### **Campus Labs Student Course Ratings System Schedule**

For most courses, the Student Course Ratings instrument becomes available to students at midnight on the first day of the evaluation period and closes at 11:59 p.m. on the last day. For fall

and spring semester courses that end prior to exam week, however, student course ratings begin on the official course ending date and continue for an additional nine days (total of 10 days).

In all cases, faculty have until 11:59 p.m. on the day prior to the evaluation period to make changes to course ratings form(s). Because Campus Labs Student Course Ratings System (CLCRS) receives data from Banner, all faculty members (full-time, part-time, teaching assistants, and instructors of record), and all courses with three or more enrolled students, are automatically scheduled for the student ratings system each semester/session.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Spring Term 2021</b>
Open Student Course Ratings Period	Monday, April 12, 2021
Closed Student Course Ratings Period	Sunday, May 2, 2021
Final Grades Due	Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Results of Student Course Ratings	Friday, May 7, 2021

More information regarding the Campus Labs Student Course Ratings System can be found at:

<https://wmich.edu/assessment/evaluation-systems/student-course-ratings-system>

## Integrated Program Review

### Academic Program Review

The review of all degree- and certificate-granting programs that began in spring 2020 will not relaunch during 2021 as originally planned. Instead, for those programs that have already completed their self-study reports, we will conclude the review of those programs at the chair/director, dean, and provost levels during the spring 2021 semester. If your program was unable to complete the self-study and chair's/director's review processes due to the pandemic, you are not required to do so during spring 2021. Over the next 12 months, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness will work with departments and colleges to establish a rotation schedule for all programs that were unable to complete the APR process during 2020. The new five-year cycle will begin with "Round 2" in spring 2022. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Chris Cheatham](#) and [Cathe Springsteen](#).

## IE Fast Facts

### What is institutional effectiveness planning?

Every institution has its mission, vision, and goals. Institutional effectiveness planning can be described as an institution's effort to organize and integrate evaluation, assessment, and improvement initiatives. All this is done to ensure that an institution can determine how well it is

fulfilling its mission and achievement of goals. In short, with institutional effectiveness all of the wrinkles get smoothed out. There is continuous improvement in student learning, educational programs, and administrative, and educational support services.

(<https://www.creatrixcampus.com/blog/everything-you-need-know-about-institutional-effectiveness>)

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Office of  
Institutional Effectiveness

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