National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment

Making Learning Outcomes Usable & Transparent

February 2013

This edition of the NILOA newsletter features NILOA's 17th Occasional Paper, *Changing Institutional Culture to Promote Assessment of Higher Learning* by Richard H. Hersh and Richard P. Keeling.

Register **here** for our third webinar on March 29 from 12:00 to 1:00pm EST with guest speakers Peter Ewell and Carol Schneider as they discuss their NILOA Occasional Paper, *The Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile: Implications for Assessment*.

In this edition:

Occasional Paper

Featured Website

DQP Updates

DQP in Practice

News

Conferences & Programs

NILOA Occasional Paper

A new Occasional Paper, NILOA's 17th, is now available:
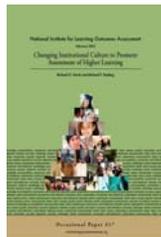
Changing Institutional Culture to Promote Assessment of Higher Learning

Richard H. Hersh & Richard P. Keeling

While a national chorus of criticism reproaches the academy for its high costs, low graduation rates, lack of accountability, administrative bloat, and faculty inefficiency, a more fundamental problem looms: how to address higher education's shortfall in higher learning. To say it plainly: in both quantity and quality, college learning is inadequate. The root cause of this learning crisis is that at most institutions the campus culture itself does not prioritize and foster transformative learning. The purpose of this paper is to help realign the assessment conversation by arguing for institutional culture change that puts higher learning first and simultaneously embraces

systemic assessment as a prerequisite of and central condition for a culture in which learning is the priority.

Viewpoint

The DQP and the Creation of the Transformative Education Program at Saint Augustine's University

A major curricular revision, such as that done at Saint Augustine's University, requires strong leadership, campus-wide agreement on mission and focus, and faculty, staff, and students willing to work together to meet the challenge of improving student learning. Yet, without the coherent structure of the DQP to provide a model for a broad and clearly articulated curricular system grounded in interconnected and ongoing assessment of student learning, it seems likely that the process of transformation would take a very long time to realize. Read more...

NILOA Updates

NILOA's Featured Website

Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) This website features Examples of Excellence, a collection of videos in which SLCC professors, instructors, and staff discuss how they have used SLCC's assessment practices to guide and verify student success, utilize SLCC's college-wide outcomes rubric, study student success rates, and more. In conjunction with its academic assessment data, SLCC provides data for each of SLCC's student service departments. **Read more…**

DQP Updates

DQP Resources

NILOA Webinar
NILOA conducted its second webinar in a series on assessment and the Degree Qualifications Profile on February 1st, 2013. The webinar provides an overview of the resources on the NILOA DQP Corner. Watch the webinar **here**.

Register **here** for our third webinar, March 29th from 12:00-1:00 EST with guest speakers Peter Ewell and Carol Schneider as they discuss their NILOA Occasional Paper on *The Lumina Degree Qualifications Profile: Implications for Assessment*.

Applied Learning
Applied Learning is an approach which emphasizes the relevance of course material to situations and conditions external to the classroom or "real world." It shifts the focus to application of knowledge and skills through solving a problem or implementing a project. Read more about Applied Learning **here**.

DQP in Action

Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
HLC is examining a new model of accreditation referred to as Open Pathways through three institutional pioneer cohorts, one of which is focused on the DQP. Additional information on the Open Pathways and the third institutional cohort working with the DQP may be found in the **Open Pathway Booklet**.

DQP in Practice

North Dakota State University (NDSU)
NDSU asked departments to compare the student learning outcomes and activities in their undergraduate capstone experiences in each major with DQP benchmarks for applied learning. Examining what "graduates can do with what they know," (in the words of the DQP) fits not only the land-grant culture of NDSU, but also had multiple other advantages for their campus. **Read more…**

North Dakota State College of Scienc (NDSCS)
NDSCS was invited to join the HLC Pathway Degree Qualifications Profile Demonstration Project as an AQIP institution and represent the two-year college perspective. The intent of the NDSCS project was to focus on the AAS degree and determine the degree of alignment of the DQP framework with employer expectations, student learning outcomes and assessment of student learning in the NDSCS AAS degrees.
Read more...

News

We collect news items from a variety of sources related to learning outcomes assessment for our website. Listed below are some from the past month:

2013 CHEA Award Winners
CHEA announced the 2013 winners of the Outstanding Institutional Practice in Student Learning Outcomes.

America's Call for Higher Education Redesign
Articles in **Inside Higher Ed** and **The Chronicle** highlight the results of a survey by the Lumina Foundation which found the majority of Americans still value higher education, but have doubts about its quality.

Trend to Measure Learning Outcomes Gains Proponents
A number of Canadian universities are now developing measures to assess student learning, but concerns remain among faculty members.

The Curious Birth and Harmful Legacy of the Credit Hour
The Carnegie Foundation's effort to rethink its credit hour unit has this author contemplating how to measure student learning and if the Degree Qualifications Profile can be a suitable framework.

Skepticism About Tenure, MOOCs and the Presidency: A Survey of Provosts
Inside Higher Ed shares the findings of their 2013 survey of university and college provosts which includes self-evaluations of using data to identify and assess student outcomes.

Upcoming Conferences and Programs

Here are conferences and workshops on learning outcomes assessment coming up in the next month:

February 27-March 1: **Engaging Faculty in Student Learning Assessment**
Charlotte, NC

February 29-March 2: **AAC&U General Education and Assessment Conference**
Boston, MA. ***Please consider attending NILOA's session on March 2nd from 8:00-9:00am.**

March 4: **Call for Proposals: 38th Annual POD Network Conference**
Pittsburgh, PA

March 4-6: **Connections 2013 - Beyond the Obvious: Taking Assessment to New Places**
Blacksburg, VA

March 8: **Call for Proposals - 2013 Student Affairs Assessment & Research Conference**
The Ohio State University

March 18-20: **Assessment Conference: Quality Through Effective Curriculum Management**
Phoenix, AZ