

March 2013 Newsletter

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NILOA is pleased to announce that in April 2013 we will launch our second survey of chief academic officers. The questions focus on institutional level student learning outcomes assessment activities and the results will update the findings from NILOA's **first national survey conducted in 2009**. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes to complete. With foundation support and assistance from several higher education associations, NILOA will send the survey to all accredited two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States to gain a current picture of outcome assessment practices nationwide.

Viewpoint

Embedded Assessment and Evidence-Based Curriculum Mapping: The Promise of Learning Analytics

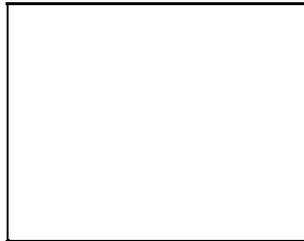
Jane M. Souza, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean of Assessment, St. John Fisher College

Assessing desired learning outcomes effectively is a complex endeavor. Risking over-simplification, I propose we accept the definition offered by Randy Swing (2010) "Assessment is change management." If we accept that premise and partner it with "Data are resources; people are the agents of decisions and change" (Kramer, Hanson, Olsen, 2010, p. 44), then the locus of control for assessment and therefore change, can reside with the people generating the data. In my school, The

Wegmans School of Pharmacy at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York, that means the faculty. [Read more...](#)

NILOA Updates

NILOA's Featured Website



Boston College

Boston College's assessment website is a comprehensive resource for guidance and support for assessment professionals and departments. It features links to the college's assessment cycle and assessment handbook, department outcomes, conversation starters that departments can use to examine their assessment programs, and examples of assessment projects from various Student Affairs departments. [Read more...](#)

DQP Updates

DQP Resources

NILOA Webinar

NILOA will conduct its third webinar in a series on assessment and the Degree Qualifications Profile on March 29, 2013 from 12:00-1:00 EST. This webinar will feature DQP authors Carol Schneider and Peter Ewell. Register for the webinar [here](#).

Applied Learning

Applied Learning is an approach that 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

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

WASC is examining the usefulness of the DQP as a framework for assisting institutions to assess the quality of degrees or portions of degree programs. Click [here](#) for additional information on WASC's work with the DQP.

DQP in Practice



The Master's College (TMC)

Given the encouragement by WASC to use the DQP as a framework for organizing the overall undergraduate learning outcomes, the college's general education revision committee was able to adapt the learning areas in the DQP to provide a basis for the development of five overarching undergraduate Institutional Learning Outcomes. [**Read more...**](#)

Westminster College (Utah)

This project involves adapting the formative model of the DQP to existing college-wide learning goals in order to better articulate what mastery of the College's learning goals looks like at various stages of matriculation. Linking the associate level expectations of learning goals with our existing college-wide learning goals will provide reference points for faculty members to better align institutional student learning outcomes with general education objectives. [**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:

A New SAT

The College Board is planning to redesign the SAT in an effort to better prepare students to make a meaningful transition into postsecondary education by focusing on a core set of knowledge and skills essential to college success.

Improving Teaching One Class at a Time

Faculty members recognize that reforming teaching and learning to effectively engage students has become increasingly important, but difficulties arise in implementing the changes.

GMAC Introduces "Soft Skills" Test, but Not for Admissions

The Graduate Management Admission Council announced a new mechanism to test the "soft skills" of students looking to develop their strengths and improve weaknesses when applying to jobs.

Call for Proposals - 2013 Assessment Institute

The 2013 Assessment Institute is currently accepting proposals for conference sessions. Please submit your proposals no later than March 29, 2013.

The "I" in FIU

Florida International University introduced a new global learning requirement that will give faculty an assessment matrix to evaluate students' global learning engagement and awareness.

Upcoming Conferences and Programs

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

March 15: **Call for Proposals - 2013 Student Affairs Assessment & Research Conference**

Office of Student Life at the Ohio State University.

March 15: **Oregon Program Evaluators Network's 2013 Conference**

Oregon Program Evaluators Network

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

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, Phoenix, AZ

March 21-23: **EPI International Forum on Education & the Economy**

Education Policy Institute, Orlando, FL

March 29: **Call for Proposals - 2013 Assessment Institute**

March 28-29: **Big Issues in Testing: Improving Admissions and Learning in Higher Education**

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

April 4-6: **AAC&U Student Success Conference**

Association of American Colleges & Universities, Network for Academic Renewal, Miami, FL

April 5-9: **2013 NCA HLC Annual Conference**

Higher Learning Commission, Chicago, IL

April 8-10: **ANNY'S 2013 Spring Workshop Conference**

ANNY Board of Directors, New York, NY

learningoutcomesassessment.org

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