Let’s Do Lunch: Assessment of (STLCC) Assessment ‘09

Be sure to mark your calendar for STLCC’S year-end Assessment of Assessment. Faculty, staff, and administrators involved in assessment projects during 2008 – 2009 are invited to attend. The “Assessment of Assessment” has been (re)scheduled for Friday, May 1, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Meramec, SC 200 – 201.

Luncheon will be served at noon. The rest of the preliminary agenda is as follows:
- 12 to 12:30 Lunch and an update to the St. Louis City and St. Louis County Environmental Scan
- 12:30 to 1:30 College-wide Assessment Summary and Campus Division Assessment Summary
- 1:30 to 1:45 Break
- 1:45 to 2:00 AQIP (Academic Quality Improvement Program) Update, or “Assessment Is More Than Keeping Score”
- 2:00 to 2:30 Small Group Discussion....What Organizational or Personal Obstacles/Issues Make It Difficult For You To Use Assessment Data/Interpretation To Close The Loop?
- 2:30 to 3:00 Report Out and Conclusion.

Please rsvp by Monday, April 27 by email to Larry McDoniel, lmcdoniel@stlcc.edu, so that we can save you some space at the table.

Campus Assessment Showcases

STLCC Assessment, in conjunction with the Vice-Presidents of Academic and Student Affairs at each campus, has scheduled the following series of campus assessment showcases throughout the spring. Each is an opportunity for a campus to present selected division assessment efforts.

The first such showcase was offered at Florissant Valley, on Friday, March 27. Division assessments associated with the following areas were discussed: ACT WorkKeys assessment related to reading and managing information; Developmental reading and NADE certification; ABET Engineering assessment, and Student Affairs process review.

Forthcoming showcases will be held as follows:
- Forest Park, Thursday, April 16th from 3:00 to 4:30 in L007
- Meramec, Wednesday, April 29 12:00 to 2:00 BA 105

Please feel free to drop in and learn more about how campus-based assessment is progressing at your campus this year.
**Former STLCC Students Return to Help**

Last year, the Mission-Based Transfer Assessment Committee recommended recruiting students who had successfully transferred from STLCC to UMSL to help inform our current students about the UMSL transfer process/experience. The intent was to provide a student-to-student “best practices” session.

Thanks to funding provided by the Vice Chancellor for Education and the efforts of the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, along with the VPs for Student Affairs, that “seed” is about to bear fruit.

The plan is to have STLCC-to-UMSL transfer students describe what they believe are “best practices” for students planning to transfer from STLCC to UMSL. A corps of (ten) transfer student mentors has been selected to share their transfer experience(s) with STLCC students, to point out and show their fellow students the transfer “ropes.”

Three to four former STLCC students will appear and talk at each campus. The sessions have been scheduled for the following dates:

- Flo-Valley April 21st 12-2 in Multipurpose Room Student Center
- Meramec April 23rd 12-2 SC 201 (I believe that is the faculty lounge)
- Forest Park, April 28th 12-2 in the Highlander Lounge.

Snacks/refreshments for students who attend the sessions will be provided.

**Student Survey (Almost) Completed**

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) survey was conducted on each campus from March 23 through April 3. The student survey questions students at community colleges across the country to find out exactly what contributes to students feeling more engaged on campus. The survey identifies five benchmarks that affect student success: active collaboration and learning, student effort, academic challenge, student-faculty interaction, and support for learners.

Collection and transmission of the data to CCSSE are currently in progress. The “crunched numbers” (i.e., the results) are expected from CCSSE sometime this summer. In addition, Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment will do some further analysis of the data provided over the summer. For example, thus far the Student Affairs Council has suggested that the following populations get specific attention:

1. New First Time college students straight from HS
2. New First Time college students – age 26 – 40
3. Developmental Students
4. Students involved in an orientation class
Faculty Survey in Progress

“All faculty who are listed in the final approved version of the Course Master Data File” are being asked to complete the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE). Developed in response to demand from the community college field, the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE) elicits information from faculty about their perceptions regarding students’ educational experiences, their teaching practices, and the ways they spend their professional time—both in and out of the classroom.

Offered as a companion to the CCSSE student survey, CCFSSE is an online census survey that invites faculty at participating colleges to contribute front-line perspectives on student engagement.

For more on CCSSE and its increasingly significant role in informing the public and changing the perceptions of and about community college students, read “Helping Community Colleges Raise the Bar,” Inside Higher Education (http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2008/11/17/ccsse).

STLCC Team Scouts AQIP

Several administrators and members of the Assessment Council will be attending the 114th Annual Meeting of NCA/The Higher Learning Commission, April 17 – April 21, and specifically the AQIP Colloquium on Saturday, April 18. Although STLCC is still exploring the possibility of joining AQIP, HLC recommends that colleges considering such send teams to discover first-hand what others involved in AQIP are doing:

Sending scouts to the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Colloquium gives colleges and universities an opportunity to learn what this newer accreditation alternative offers and why a variety of colleges and universities have chosen it. When thinking about accreditation, every organization needs to understand the pros and cons of using a distinctly different process for maintaining accredited status. Use the AQIP Colloquium to learn the facts that you need to decide how you want your institution to maintain its HLC accreditation.

Consequently, a team led by Acting VCE Donna Dare and Director of IRPA John Cosgrove will attend the AQIP Colloquium to reconnoiter throughout the day. Sessions such as “A Compelling Action-Project Option to Improve New Student Success” featuring John Gardner and “Benchmarking: An Essential Tool for AQIP” presented by Jeffrey Seybert look promising, as do many others that AQIP veterans are providing for those who have bought into AQIP as well as those who are still “shopping.”

The Assessment Council and others will very likely propose to governance this fall that AQIP be adopted as the mechanism with which STLCC will meet its Higher Learning Commission
accreditation obligation. The hope is that the College will officially apply for acceptance as an AQIP school during the ‘09 – ‘10 academic year.

Assessment Council Updates

The Assessment Council Meeting for March was cancelled. In addition, the Assessment Council meeting scheduled for April 17 has been moved to Friday, May 1, at Meramec, SC 200 – 201, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., in conjunction with the third annual “Assessment of Assessment” luncheon.

FYI

STLCC Assessment Publications

Recent outreach attempts can be found on the College Assessment webpage. These include the following articles that appeared in League for Innovation publications:

- “St. Louis Community College Customizes Assessment,” iStream Project Highlight (League for Innovation; February 2009)
  [http://www.league.org/istreamSite/project_index.cfm?id=1041&Submit=Open+Edition](http://www.league.org/istreamSite/project_index.cfm?id=1041&Submit=Open+Edition)
- “Assessment Is More Than Keeping Score: Moving From Inquiry, Through Interpretation, To Action,” League Abstracts (February 2009, Volume 12, Number 2)

Conferences on Assessment

**2009 NC State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium**

Cary, NC  April 24-April 26, 2009

The mission of the Symposium is to provide a forum for higher education professionals to exchange ideas, discover new practices and form partnerships to enhance the full undergraduate educational experience through assessment. The Symposium is designed to address both practical concerns and larger policy issues by providing attendees with ideas and tools that can be immediately shared and implemented at their home institutions, which range from community colleges to large research universities.

**International Assessment & Retention Conference**

New Orleans, Louisiana  June 10 - 13, 2009

The International Assessment and Retention Conference is intended to be a "big tent" conference. Like the annual conferences once run by the American Association for Higher Education, this conference deals with topics of both policy and practice, and it is aimed at higher education professionals interested in and committed to the improvement of student
learning. Thus it is designed, as the AAHE conferences were, to create conversations relevant to and benefiting professionals in Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Institutional Research.

**The International Association for Educational Assessment - 2009 Conference**

Brisbane, Australia  
September 13-18, 2009

The International Association for Educational Assessment offers a global forum for all those involved in all forms of educational assessment – in primary or secondary schools, colleges or the workplace. Its members include examining bodies, university departments, research organizations and government agencies from more than 50 countries on all continents.

**Assessment Calendar**

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**Important STLCC Assessment Links**

- Institutional Research & Planning Assessment Toolbox  
  http://collegeweb.stlcc.edu/assessment/

- Assessment Resources  
  http://www.stlcc.edu/Faculty_and_Staff_Resources/Assessment/Assessment_Resources.html

- Assessment Public Site  
  http://www.stlcc.edu/Faculty_and_Staff_Resources/Assessment/