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The AssessNews

Assessments in Action at Danville Area
Community College

ISSUE 02



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As the fall semester draws to a close we wanted to make sure that assessment was forefront in your mind!

It's definitely been a busy semester for all of us and we have been working diligently toward streamlining our practices while ensuring that they remain beneficial to all of us carrying them out.

Read on to find out a bit about the things that the Assessment Crew has been up to throughout this past semester...



WHAT'S NEW IN ASSESSMENT?

Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Amy Nicely has joined the assessment crew as the Assessment Coordinator. Her role within the group will be to disseminate information to all areas of the college, prepare data for presentation, help the Director with reporting, and collaborate with the champions to ensure we are utilizing the most current and effective assessment practices across campus.

Rubrics in LMS: The assessment crew is piloting a Watermark system that will allow integration of our rubrics directly into our LMS. This system will link the data entered into the rubrics directly to the data management system which will not only further streamline our assessment process but make data collection and analysis much simpler. We will be rolling this out in the Spring semester, so look for it at In-Service in January!!!

Assessment Institute: In October the assessment crew attended the IUPUI Assessment Institute in Indianapolis. Participants from both 2-year and 4-year institutions shared case studies and best practices related to different assessment processes. It's clear that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to assessment. One particular presentation of interest demonstrated the use of data visualization using Tableau or Power BI to extract interesting trends from large data sets.



www.assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu

Co-Curricular Happenings:

There have been some big changes in co-curricular assessment lately! The outcomes that we assess have been changed so that they align with the general education outcomes used in academic assessment. We have also created service-specific outcomes for the various co-curricular groups that are similar in nature to academic course student learning outcomes. There is a strong core group of amazing individuals that make up co-curricular assessment which includes: TRIO, The MASS learning center, The Writing Center, and The Blackboard Online Student Orientation. These groups have worked diligently to collect data they have used to make important changes!



Assessment Spotlight -- The Biology Program

For the 2022-2023 Technology Assessment, the Biology Program worked together to build a common assessment over the use and care of the compound light microscope. The assessment was designed to cover information considered to be introductory through mastery and was administered to all students taking biology classes. After examining the Fall assessment results, each faculty made changes to how and how often they reviewed the use of the compound light microscope in their courses with hopes of improving students' understanding of this crucial piece of equipment. Biology faculty learned that as students progressed through the Biology Program, they were more skilled at using and caring for the microscope. (Average scores Fall 22: students that only had 1 class averaged 55%, 2 classes = 60%, 3 classes = 77%, 4+ classes = 80%) Furthermore, changes made in the second semester improved the overall scores in each category. (Average scores Spring 23: 1 class = 59%, 2 classes = 67%, 3 class = 80%, 4+ classes = 82%). Biology faculty are thrilled with the overall results of their assessment and plan to continue the changes made in their courses.



Important Dates

Dec 8:

- Fall Rubrics were due - if you haven't submitted yours yet get it in soon so you can be entered into the Spring drawing!!

January 11:

- Parts 2 and 3 of the PAR due

May 2024:

- Assessment Day (date TBD)

GET TO KNOW YOUR ASSESSMENT CREW:



A Message from the Assessment Director, Dr. Penny McConnell

We are very excited that Dr. Amy Nicely has joined the Assessment Crew. She has been very involved with the assessment of student learning since she joined the faculty ranks at DACC several years ago and brings a great deal of expertise to the Assessment Coordinator position.

The entire team has been busy - participating in training on how to imbed the assessment rubrics directly into our LMS, attending the IUPUI Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, and assisting with preparation of the Assurance Argument for our upcoming visit from HLC on March 4 and 5. And yes, making sure all of you are submitting your assessment data.

Please take a minute and look at the progress we have made with co-curricular assessment under the leadership of Stephanie Loveless. While you're at it, check out how the biology program under the leadership of Dr. Brown used the results of the technology assessment to make changes leading to a better learning experience for their students. After all, isn't that what this is all about?

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. See you in 2024.

Fun Facts....

Wendy loves *Chlamydia*. Not because she's had it, but because she studied it in college

Jen loves beer. Not because she drinks it, but because she studied it in college... and now she advises people about nutrition

Ryan loves Thanksgiving because of the four Fs: Family, Food, Friends and Football

Stephanie loves cephalopods. She once scared a squid while snorkeling... well tried to scare it anyway

Amy loves papercrafting projects like stamping, cardmaking, scrapbooking and making festive treats