



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Learning Outcomes Assessment: Reflecting on the Past and Planning for the Future

Dr. Robert J. Awkward
Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment
Friday, September 13, 2019

Reflecting on the Past



- Amcoa Team Meetings:
 - Sept. 28: Institutional Assessment Program Panel: UMass Amherst, Framingham State, and Northern Essex Community College; and Salem State & ACUE
 - Nov. 30: Dr. Patricia O'Brien, SND & Dr. Laura Gambino, NECHE – “Making Assessment More Meaningful”
 - Feb. 1: QORE - “Say it Loud: Using Oral Presentations to Assess General Education”
 - April 5: Dr. Laura Bayliss, Fitchburg State University – “Building a Comprehensive Student Affairs Assessment Program”
- Task Force on Statewide Assessment:
 - Oct. 16: Dr. James Dottin, Middlesex Community College – “Program Assessment: A Journey from Compliance to Engagement”
 - Jan. 17: Dr. Emily Williams, Mass. College of Liberal Arts – “Assessment Across the Regions”
 - March 1: Merri Incitti, Fitchburg State University – “Holistic Approaches to Student Learning”

Reflecting on the Past

Eighth Annual Assessment Conference

- “The Intersectionality of Equity, Quality, & Student Learning”
- Friday, April 19, 2019 @ Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, Marlborough, MA
- Decline in attendees from 130 to 115 (11.5%) largely due to Work-to-Rule at state universities
 - Two of the nine had no attendees
 - Six had one to three attendees
- Overall conference Very Satisfied/Satisfied score of 91%; down slightly from 2018 (96.5%)
- Dr. Gianina Baker, NILOA; Very Satisfied/Satisfied = 86%; down from 96.5% in 2018
- Morning Breakout Sessions Very Satisfied/Satisfied score of 94% (vs. 92% in 2018) based on Faculty-Led Assessment (4), Assessing for Value (2), and Universal Design (2)
- Afternoon Breakout Sessions Very Satisfied/Satisfied score of 78.2% (vs. 92% in 2018) based on Understanding Critique as a Form of Assessment (3), Quantitative Literacy (3), and Oral Presentations (2)



Reflecting on the Past

Topics for Next Year's Annual Assessment Conference

- Examples of things done to assess that are innovative, but valid and reliable
- More information about assessment activities in STEM and disciplines that have accreditation standards
- More guidelines for faculty on how to conduct assessment at their college (ex. MCC)
- More applied examples of how to address equity
- Some structured networking time would be great
- How to prepare and plan data gathering, both immediate and long-term in order to effectively conduct assessment

Reflecting on the Past

Regional Professional Development

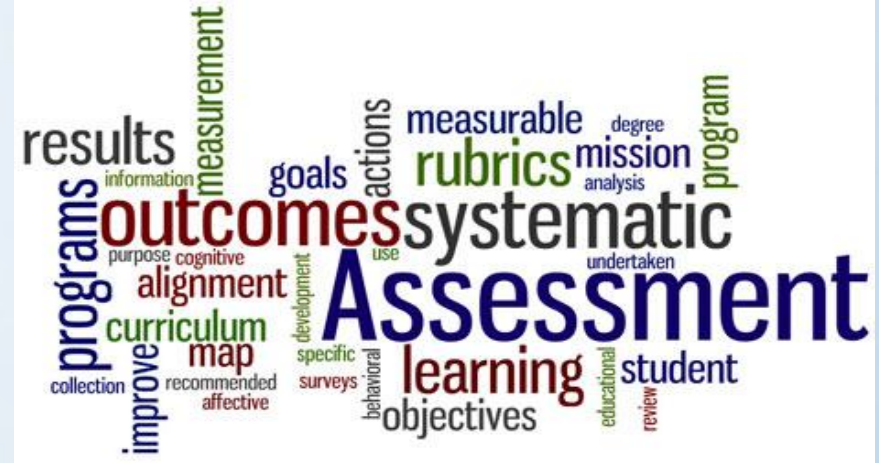
- **Assignment Design Charrettes:**
 - November 2: North Region at North Shore Community College – Dr. Sara Strout, Worcester State University, Facilitator
 - December 7: Boston Metro Region at UMass Boston – Dr. Bonnie Orcutt, Worcester State University, Facilitator
 - January 25: Central Region at Quinsigamond Community College – Dr. Ruth Slotnick, Bridgewater State University, Facilitator
 - February 8: West Region at Westfield State University – Dr. Sara Strout, Worcester State University, Facilitator



Reflecting on the Past

- VALUE Institute

- Institutional Leaders Kickoff Meeting, Sept. 20: Guest Presenter - Dr. Brian Doore, Unity College, Unity, ME (nee Director of Assessment for University of Maine System)
- Area of Focus: Critical Thinking
- Planned Actions Based on 2016-2017 Data:
 - Regional Assignment Design Charrettes
 - Regional Quantitative Literacy Workshops (postponed until Fall, AY2020)
- Ten Institutions Selected
- AAC&U Webinar – “The Landscape of Learning: What We Know from the Inaugural Year of the VALUE Institute” on December 4, 2018



VALUE Institute Participating Institutions: 2018-2019

University of Massachusetts System

- UMass Amherst
- UMass Boston
- UMass Lowell

State Universities

- Fitchburg State University
- Salem State University
- Westfield State University
- Worcester State University

Community Colleges

- Cape Cod Community College
- North Shore Community College
- Northern Essex Community College

- Eight out of ten categories of institutional types covered
- Missing:
 - High tech. institution and high minorities (i.e., STCC)
 - Small institution with low minorities (e.g., Greenfield)
- New participants:
 - UMass Boston
 - Cape Cod Community College (returning)

MassTransfer Pathways Student Learning Outcomes

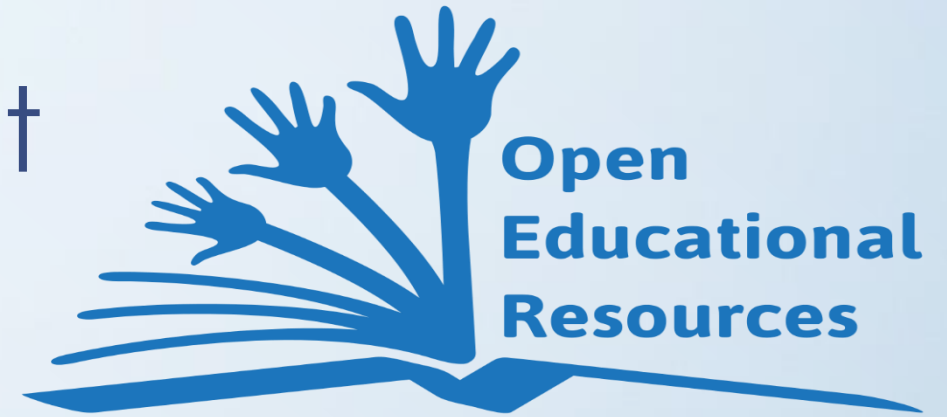
- Communication & Media Studies (revised from 2018):
 - Human Communication
 - Interpersonal Communication
 - Film Studies/History and Criticism of Film
 - Mass Communications (nee Media Studies)
- Business Administration:
 - Financial Accounting
 - Managerial Accounting
 - Marketing
 - Management
 - Business Law
 - Computer Applications
- Criminal Justice:
 - Introduction to Policing
 - Introduction to Criminal Justice
 - Introduction to Corrections
 - Criminology
 - Criminal Law



Reflecting on the Past

Open Education Resources (OER)

- Convened an OER Working Group
- Sub-committees met multiple meetings, identified areas of focus, conducted research, and made recommendations
- Held two OER Working Group meetings: February and April 2019
- Presented draft recommendations to the Board of Higher Education's Academic Affairs Committee: April 2019
- Presented to the Northeast OER Conference at UMass Amherst (P. Marshall & R. Awkward, DHE & S. Teixeira, SAC): May 2019
- Finalized draft report and submitted for institutional review and feedback



Planning for the Future



- Amcoa Team Meetings (all at QCC):
 - Fri., Sept. 13: Dr. Peggy Maki - “Real-Time Assessment: A Shared Commitment to Students’ Equitable Progress Toward Achieving High-Quality Outcomes”
 - Fri., Nov. 15: TBD
 - Fri., Feb. 7: TBD
 - Fri., March 27: TBD
- Task Force on Statewide Assessment (all at QCC):
 - Oct. 8: TBD
 - Jan. 15: TBD
 - March 6: TBD
- Ninth Annual Assessment Conference: Friday, April 17; Place TBD

Planning for the Future

Regional Professional Development

- Quantitative Literacy Faculty Workshops: Fall 2019
 - Objectives: Addresses area of focus from Refinement Year MSC, improve student learning, expand the use of quantitative literacy across the curriculum, links learning & teaching with assessment, better data, and equity
 - Expected Outcomes: Create more effective assignments, employ the use of TILT design, and illustrate student utilization of quantitative literacy
 - Targeted to cross-discipline faculty
 - Incentives for attendance: Hands-on session using their own assignment/syllabus, held on Friday, and food
 - Regionally located, i.e., North at UMass Lowell (10/11), Boston Metro at UMass Boston (10/18), Central at Quinsigamond Community (10/25), West at Holyoke Community College (10/25), and Southeast (Bridgewater State at SEQuEL Conference)
 - Support the SEQuEL Conference at Bridgewater State
 - Guest presenters (Dr. Matt Salomone, Bridgewater State University and Dr. Mary-Ann Winkelmes, Brandeis University (TILT) via video and utilizing local faculty to facilitate



Planning for the Future

Regional Professional Development



- Regionally-Developed Faculty Workshops: Spring 2020
 - Objectives: Improve teaching and student learning, links learning & teaching with assessment, and equity
 - Expected Outcomes: Create more effective teaching practices and increased learning outcomes
 - Targeted to cross-discipline faculty
 - Incentives for attendance: Hands-on session, held on Friday, and food and refreshments
 - To be regionally located, i.e., Boston Metro, Central, North, Southeast, and West

Planning for the Future

Assessment Program Design One Day Workshop for Institutional Teams

- Friday, October 4
- Framingham State University's Warren Conference Center, Ashland, MA
- Focus will be on institutional teams of up to five to develop or strengthen their assessment program
- Food and refreshments to be provided

Facilitator: Dr. Mark Nicholas,
Executive Director of Institutional Assessment
Framingham State University



MassTransfer Pathways Student Learning Outcomes

Carryover from AY 2018

- Early Childhood Education

For AY 2020

General Education Foundation

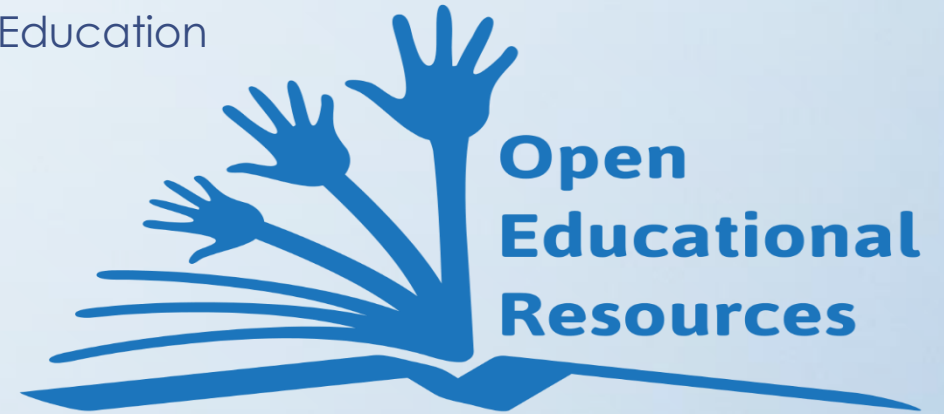
Carryover from AY 2019

- Elementary Education
- Engineering
- Fine Arts & Graphics



Planning for the Future

- Open Educational Resources (OER) Working Group
 - Incorporate Campus Feedback into the Final OER Report
 - Present the Final OER Report to the Board of Higher Education
 - Academic Affairs Committee: 10/15
 - Board of Higher Education: 10/22
 - Implement Recommendations (as approved):
 - Adopt a Statewide Definition
 - Convene a Statewide OER Advisory Council
 - Designate a Statewide OER Coordinator
 - Designate OER Courses in Course Management System
 - Continue to Support Student Advocacy
 - Join, Coordinate with, and Learn from Regional and National OER Advocacy Organizations
 - Continue to Educate Key Stakeholders, e.g., Legislators, Campus Administration, Faculty, etc.
 - Continue to Provide Faculty Professional Development for OER





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Questions...Comments?

Thank You!!

