

**Task Force on Statewide Assessment
Framingham State University
October 18, 2016**

Session Observations on Advancing a Culture of Assessment*

Benefits of Assessment:

- Assessment is a useful pedagogy that informs teaching and learning and is not a management tool
- Learning is a life-long accumulation of knowledge and experience, but that does not preclude assessing in the here and now
- Assessment should be as rich and complex as the learning that is being assessed
- The assessment dialogue is useful to advancing a culture of assessment
- Useful assessment leads to improved assignment design that can be a collaborative, and useful process

Challenges of Assessment:

- There's magic in the classroom (when learning happens) that we don't want to assess
- Lack of inclusion of group learning in assessment at all levels, yet group learning reinforces LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes (i.e., teamwork and problem solving)
- Need to shorten the time frame between data collection and use of the data to increase faculty interest in and participation with assessment

Opportunities from Assessment:

- Professional development of administrators is also important to support effective institutional assessment
- There is enormous power in capturing and sharing what we are doing on our campuses; what changed as a result of assessment

*This discussion was informed by the reading of and discussion about the article by Occhipinti, L. (Summer 2016). "What I learned about higher ed assessment in a small village in South America." *Thought & Action*. Washington DC: National Education Association.