DHE Learning Outcomes Assessment

Dr. Robert Awkward
Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment
Amcoa Team Meeting
September 29, 2017
Alignment of Assessment and the Big Three Higher Education Goals

- Increasing Completion
- Closing Achievement Gaps
- Learning Outcomes Assessment
Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- Convenings:
  - Amcoa Team: Met 9/29/16 at UMass Lowell, 12/2/2016 at Holyoke Community College, 2/2/2017 at Middlesex Community College, and 3/31/2017 at Quinsigamond Community College

- Topics included:
  - NEASC new accreditation standards
  - Inter–rate reliability
  - MSC Demonstration Year results
  - Transparent assignment design
  - Emerging trends in assessment technology
Assessment Update: 2016–2017

Convenings:

- Task Force on Statewide Assessment: Met 10/18/2016 at Framingham State University, 1/19/2017 at Quinsigamond Community College, and 3/10/2017 at Worcester State University

- Topics included:
  - Current state of assessment
  - MSC Demonstration Year results
  - NILOA’s *Excellence in Assessment* certification
  - Campus success stories (MCAD, MMA, and The Q)
Sixth Annual Assessment Conference: April 21, 2017 at Westborough Doubletree

- 100 registrants
- Headliners included Dr. Susan Albertine from AAC&U and Dr. Natasha Jankowski from NILOA
- Participant feedback (based on 44% response rate) was:
  - Overall: 4.8 out of 5.0 (96%)
  - Format: 4.75 out of 5.0 (95%)
  - Topics presented: 4.73 out of 5.0 (94.6%)
  - Presenters: 4.8 out of 5.0 (96%)
  - Site: 4.85 out of 5.0 (97%)
Multi-State Collaborative (MSC) to Advance Quality Student Learning

- Increased participating institutions from seven (2015–2016) to eleven for the Refinement Year
- This represents 8 of 10 segments required for a representative sample
- Held regular MSC–MA Steering Committee meetings: 10/27/2016, 1/18/2017, and 4/19/2017
- Provided institutional funds support to participating institutions (albeit down 16.7% from the prior year)
- Shared results with the Amcoa Team, the Task Force, and the Board of Higher Education
MassTransfer Pathways

- Developed learning outcomes for 25 foundational courses for seven disciplines working with 21 discipline-based, segment leaders, and MassTransfer faculty selected to represent their respective institutions:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry (General and Organic)
  - Economics
  - History
  - Political Science
  - Psychology (two of eight completed)
  - Sociology
Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- Funded Assessment Professional Development Seminars for the:
  - **Western Region** on April 28, 2017
    - Assignment Design at Westfield State University
  - **Southeast Region** on May 23, 2017
    - Information Literacy Charrette at Massasoit Community College
  - **Central Region** on July 10, 2017
    - NEASC E Series Forms and Meaningful Campus Assessment at UMass Lowell
Assessment Update: 2016–2017

- Informational Presentations conducted by Dr. Lane Glenn, President, Northern Essex Community College; Dr. Patricia Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success; and Bob Awkward for:
  - Community College Council of Presidents on February 17, 2017
  - The Board of Higher Education on March 21, 2017
  - Council of State University Presidents on April 14, 2017
Institutional Assessment Survey

- **Survey Overview:**
  - Survey monkey conducted during the month of August 2017.
  - Responses from 27 out of 28 (96.4%) institutions

- **Objective:**
  - To assess how much we have advanced a culture of assessment in Massachusetts and to identify opportunities to deepen and strengthen the practice of assessment
Campus Reported Data

Director of Assessment?

- Yes: 54%
- No: 46%
Campus Reported Data

Faculty Assessment Fellow?

- Yes: 43%
- No: 57%
Campus Reported Data

Members of the MSC?

- Yes: 61%
- No: 39%
Campus Reported Data

Host an assessment day?

- No: 75%
- Yes: 25%
Campus Reported Data

Has assessment committee?

- Yes: 79%
- No: 21%
Campus Reported Data

ISLO's?

- 75% Yes
- 25% No
Campus Reported Data

PLO's?

- 4% No
- 96% Yes
Objective for 2017–2018

- Shift from viewing assessment as only a form of compliance and advancing a culture of assessment to institutionalizing an improvement paradigm while recognizing:
  - Cutbacks in state spending for higher education
  - Loss of external funding for assessment
  - Some continued faculty and union resistance to assessment
  - Work–to–Rule at the state universities
  - Assessment is an ongoing and essential educational excellence practice expected by key stakeholders
Planning for 2017–2018

Convenings:

◦ Amcoa Team:
  • Fri., Sept. 29 at Worcester State University
  • Thurs., Nov. 30 at Quinsigamond Community College
  • Fri., Feb. 2, 2018 at Quinsigamond Community College
  • Thurs., Mar. 29, 2018 at Quinsigamond Community College

◦ Task Force on Statewide Assessment:
  • Tues., Oct. 17 at Worcester State University
  • Thurs., Jan. 18, 2018 at Worcester State University
  • Fri., Mar. 9, 2018 at Worcester State University

◦ Annual Assessment Conference
  • Fri., April 20, 2018 at Westborough Doubletree Hotel
Planning for 2017–2018

- Multi-State Collaborative (MSC):
  - MA–MSC Steering Committee Refinement 2.0 Planning Meeting held at Quinsigamond Community College, Sept. 8
  - Increase participation, especially of small institutions to achieve the state sample (i.e., 10 of 10)
  - Conduct comparative analysis of the Demonstration Year (2015–2016) to the Refinement Year (2016–2017) data, and develop specific strategies as a result
Planning for 2017–2018

- MassTransfer Pathways;
  - Continued work on foundational disciplines including:
    - Business Administration
    - Communication & Media Studies
    - Computer Science
    - Early Childhood Education
    - English
    - Liberal Arts (General Education Foundation)
    - Physics
    - Psychology (6 of 8; 2 already completed)
Planning for 2017–2018

- Institutionalizing Assessment:
  - Developing ISLOs
  - Focusing on Departmental Assessment as a pocket of readiness
  - Encouraging the creation of Assessment Days
  - Strengthening Faculty Teaching Skills
  - Improving the Utility of MSC Data Statewide and at the Campus Level
Planning for 2017–2018

- Regional Professional Development
  - Begin regional professional planning earlier
  - Resize the regional structure to encourage greater collaboration
  - Utilize these sessions to expand the conversations about assessment to a larger audience

- Continued Education of Key Stakeholders:
  - The Board of Higher Education
  - Presidents of State Universities and Community Colleges
  - Chancellors in the University of Massachusetts System
Conclusion

THANK YOU