Back to the Future

Amcoa Team Meeting
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Dr. Robert Awkward
September 29, 2016
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment Initiatives

Convening:
- Task Force on Statewide Assessment
- Amcoa Team
- Mass. Team

Outcomes:
- MSC to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Faculty Leadership Collaboratives
Task Force on Statewide Assessment

- **Purpose**: To serve as representatives of their respective campuses and, as such, provide advice to the Commissioner of Higher Education and oversight and guidance to the Mass. Team

- **Membership**: One presidentially-appointed representative for each of the campuses participating in the LEAP State initiative

- **Leadership**: Chaired by a campus president (currently Lane Glenn, Northern Essex Community College)
Amcoa Team

- **Purpose**: To advance assessment of student learning on public campuses of higher education through information sharing about best practices and campuses experiences; provision of faculty and staff professional development opportunities; and cross-institution, collaborative experiments with assessment approaches and technology.
- **Membership**: Three representatives from each of the 28 public higher education campuses appointed by the respective president/chancellor.
- **Leadership**: DHE Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment.
Mass. Team

- **Purpose**: To assist campuses in improving student learning through ongoing development and implementation of system-wide learning outcomes assessment that contributes to the advancement of instructional and institutional practices. To provide evidence to campuses and the public of the value of Massachusetts public higher education.
- **Membership**: Appointed by the Commissioner in consultation with respective presidents/chancellors to three year terms.
- **Leadership**: DHE Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
- **Sponsors:** State Higher Education Executive Officers
  
  ![SHEEO Logo](image)

- Association of American Colleges & Universities

![AACU Logo](image)
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
  - Builds on the Massachusetts Vision Project and AAC&U LEAP initiative and the Essential Learning Outcomes
  - Designed to provide meaningful evidence about how well students are achieving important learning outcomes
  - Project uses common LEAP VALUE rubrics for performance levels applied to authentic student work
  - Primary objective to provide data to faculty and institutional leaders to assess and improve the levels of student achievement
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
  - Goals:
    - Use authentic work
    - Leverage faculty expertise
    - Promote shared standards
    - Be transparent
    - Benchmark learning
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
  - Pilot Study in 2014–2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>4-Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>2-Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,215</td>
<td>Pieces of student work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,166</td>
<td>Assignments submitted</td>
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Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

  - Massachusetts Participating Institutions:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Colleges</th>
<th>State Universities</th>
<th>UMass System</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mount Wachusett Community College</td>
<td>Fitchburg State University</td>
<td>University of Mass. Amherst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern Essex Community College</td>
<td>Salem State University</td>
<td>University of Mass. Lowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Shore Community College</td>
<td>Westfield State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinsigamond Community College</td>
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Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
  - Participating States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connecticut</th>
<th>Maine</th>
<th>Oregon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Texas</td>
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<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Utah</td>
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Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Faculty Leadership Collaboratives
  - **Goal:** To build faculty knowledge, skill, desire, and leadership to apply Degree Qualifications Profile/Tuning* principles to the redesign of general education programs and to the assessment of student learning outcomes both within individual institutions and in the context of transfer
  - **Sponsors:** Lumina Foundation and AAC&U
  - **Faculty Fellows:**
    - 2014–2015: Dr. Lori Dawson, Worcester State University and Dr. Catherine Pride, Middlesex Community College
    - 2016–2017: Dr. Catherine Pride
  
  *Tuning is a faculty-driven process that determines what a student should know and be able to do in a chosen discipline when a degree is earned.
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Faculty Leadership Collaboratives

2015–2016 Activities:
  - Convened two and four-year faculty from Biology, Chemistry, and Economics in April/May and June to develop common course learning outcomes for foundational courses to facilitate the Academic Transfer Pathways
  - Additional work was delayed due to work-to-rule
Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- Faculty Leadership Collaboratives

- 2016–2017 Planned Activities:
  - Develop common course objectives for foundational courses in History, Political Science, and Psychology
  - Convene faculty from Biology, Chemistry, and Economics to create assignments to address the outcomes developed in Spring 2016
  - Develop an Information Hub utilizing the DHE website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STRENGTHS</th>
<th>WEAKNESSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public desire for accountability</td>
<td>Increasing use of part-time faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty desire to improve learning quality</td>
<td>Initiative fatigue</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCCC union support of assessment</td>
<td>General resistance to change</td>
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<td>Equality versus equity</td>
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<tr>
<th>OPPORTUNITIES</th>
<th>THREATS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Increasing accreditation accountability</td>
<td>Declining enrollments</td>
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<td>Alignment with the Big Three: access and affordability, closing the gaps &amp; completion</td>
<td>Declining public funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty professional development</td>
<td>Declining external funding for assessment</td>
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- **Why?**
  - Articulating our vision and purpose

- **What?**
  - Deepening and advancing culture of assessment at the state, institutional, program and course levels
  - Demonstrating tangible outcomes for faculty, for students, for the institution, for the public.
  - Institutionalizing assessment

- **How…..**
  - Do we go forward?
  - Can DHE help you/your institution to go forward?
Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Small Group Work by Institutional Types
Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Amcoa Team Report Out
Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Closing