

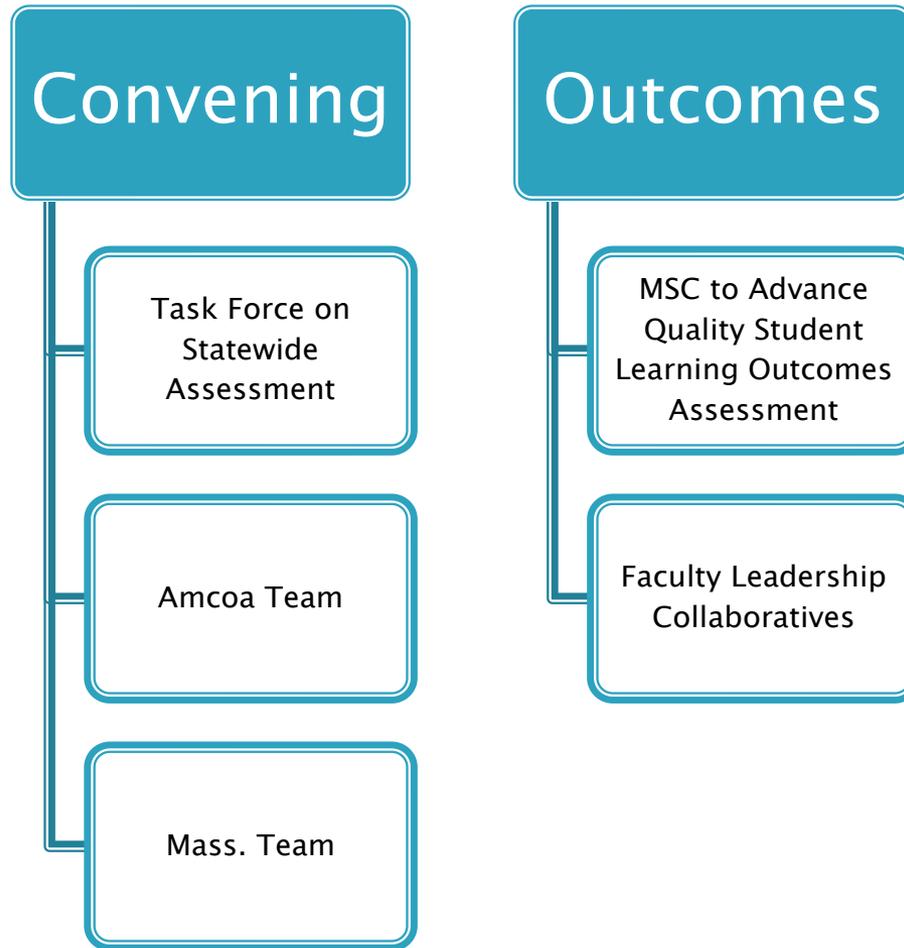


MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

Back to the Future

Amcoa Team Meeting
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Dr. Robert Awkward
September 29, 2016

Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment Initiatives



Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Convening

- ▶ 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)



Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Convening

▶ 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. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Convening

▶ 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

STATE HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

- ▶ Association of American Colleges & Universities



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

```
graph TD; A[Use authentic work] --> B[Leverage faculty expertise]; B --> C[Promote shared standards]; C --> D[Be transparent]; D --> E[Benchmark learning];
```

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:

Numbers	
9	States
59	Institutions
28	4-Year
31	2-Year
7,215	Pieces of student work
1,166	Assignments submitted

Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

- ▶ Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment: Demonstration Study 2015–2016
 - Massachusetts Participating Institutions:

Community Colleges	State Universities	UMass System
Mount Wachusett Community College	Fitchburg State University	University of Mass. Amherst
Northern Essex Community College	Salem State University	University of Mass. Lowell
North Shore Community College	Westfield State University	
Quinsigamond Community College		

Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Outcomes

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

Connecticut	Maine	Oregon
Hawaii	Massachusetts	Rhode Island
Indiana	Minnesota	Texas
Kentucky	Missouri	Utah

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

Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Current Challenges – S.W.O.T. Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
Public desire for accountability	Increasing use of part-time faculty
Faculty desire to improve learning quality	Initiative fatigue
MCCC union support of assessment	General resistance to change
	Equality versus equity
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Increasing accreditation accountability	Declining enrollments
Alignment with the Big Three: access and affordability, closing the gaps & completion	Declining public funding
Faculty professional development	Declining external funding for assessment

Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: The New Reality

▶ 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



