CONTINUING TO ADVANCE THE CULTURE OF ASSESSMENT at Massachusetts Public Colleges & Universities
Overview

• Presenters:
  ▫ Dr. Glenn Lane, President, Northern Essex Community College
  ▫ Dr. Patricia A. Marshall, Deputy Commissioner, Academic Affairs & Student Success
  ▫ Dr. Robert Awkward, Director, Learning Outcomes Assessment
Presentation Overview

- Why do learning outcomes assessment?
- Brief history of learning outcomes assessment
- Benefits of learning outcomes assessment for the campuses
- Future initiatives
- Discussion
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Why Assess Learning Outcomes?

Learning Outcomes Assessment matters to...

- Students
- Faculty
- Employers
- Taxpayers
- Federal Government / Accreditors
- State Government / BHE
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Major Milestones to Date

**FY2010:** DHE develops Vision Project including Student Learning focus

**January 2013:** Task Force begins MA assessment pilot

**April 2011–present:** Amcoa Team develops & strengthens campus-level assessment
  • Funded by Davis Educational Foundation thru FY2013, then by campuses

**March 2012:** AAC&U accepts MA proposal for multi-state assessment model (MSC)

**December 2012:** MSC launches (9 states)
  • Led by AAC&U & SHEEO, funded by Gates

**January 2014:** MSC begins piloting MA model

**FY2015:** MSC “Pilot Year” (9 states)
  • Report released September 2015

**FY2016:** MSC “Demonstration Year” (12 states)
  • Report released February 2017

**FY2017:** MSC “Refinement Year” (13 states)
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update
From Campus to State to National Level of Assessment

**CAMPUS LEVEL**

Amcoa Team

Advances assessment of student learning on public campuses; strengthens campus assessment capabilities

**STATE LEVEL**

Task Force on Statewide Assessment

Need to build upon campus-level assessment

Provides broad oversight for statewide assessment in Massachusetts

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

Multi-State Collaborative (MSC)

Need for common framework & inclusive, shared leadership

A steering committee represents Massachusetts in Multi-State Collaborative to develop multi-state program of assessment
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update: Benefits for Campuses

Value-Added Benefits
- Convening
- Annual Assessment Conference
- Professional Development

State-wide Coordination
- MSC to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Mass. Transfer Pathways
Student Learning Convening Outcomes Assessment: Selected Value-Added Results for 2016-2017

- Dr. Patricia O’Brien reviewed new NEASC standards on assessment in accreditation
- Presented MSC vs. Mass. results and working to develop campus-level implementation strategies
- Showcased campus assessment success initiatives, approaches, and tools
- Obtained useful input for the design of a new DHE learning assessment website
- Identified and presented the Learning Assessment Research Consortium modularized, online learning outcomes assessment training program
- Identified and presented the NILOA *Excellence in Assessment* certification if appropriate
Student Learning Outcomes Update: Annual Assessment Conference

• Sixth Annual Assessment Conference on April 21, 2017 from 8:00am – 4:00pm at Westborough Doubletree, Westborough, MA

• Selected national guest presenters:
  ▫ Dr. Susan Albertine, Senior Scholar, AAC&U – Keynote speaker
  ▫ Dr. Natasha Jankowski, Director, NILOA and Research Assistant Professor, Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update: Professional Development

- Co-creation of knowledge gained at statewide meetings (i.e., Amcoa and Task Force for Statewide Assessment)
  - Hosting regional professional development events
  - Hosting free state-wide assessment conference with morning and afternoon workshops and plenary sessions
  - Offering to hold assignment design workshops; speak at Assessment Day programs
State-wide Coordination

• Campus-level Benefits:
  ▫ Saves money
  ▫ Minimizes duplication of efforts and enhances institutional efficiency
  ▫ Increases knowledge sharing
  ▫ Advances the equity agenda (e.g., Mass. Transfer Pathways, Assignment Design workshops)
  ▫ Supports accreditation and institutional effectiveness
  ▫ Identification of new resources
Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

- **Sponsors:** State Higher Education Executive Officers
- Association of American Colleges & Universities
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Multi-State Collaborative

13 States as of 2016-17
Connecticut, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Common Framework

- **Scoring of authentic student work** by faculty peers
  - Tool: LEAP VALUE Rubrics from Association of American Colleges & Universities

- **Assessing essential learning outcomes** that all students need for success in work, citizenship, and life
  - Critical & Creative Thinking
  - Quantitative Literacy
  - Written & Oral Communication
Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Benefits:

- Designed to provide evidence about student learning outcomes using authentic student artifacts
- Faculty improve student learning by using common LEAP VALUE rubrics to design and assess assignments
- Ability to compare campus and state data to national data
- Provide data to campus faculty and institutional leaders to create strategies to assess and improve the levels of student achievement
Faculty developing shared learning outcomes for MassTransfer “A2B Mapped” disciplines

Still to be initiated for Spring 2017:
- English

In Progress:
- Psychology
- Sociology

Faculty Review:
- Chemistry (Organic)

Completed:
- Biology
- Chemistry (General)
- Economics
- History
- Political Science
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Update

Future Goals

- Institutional / program / course learning outcomes
- Institutionalized assessment practices
- Faculty professional development
- Institutional effectiveness (e.g., accreditation)

- Statewide data release
- Integration with new Performance Measurement System
- Continued MassTransfer Pathways integration
- Regional professional development
- Development of information resource hub

- Expansion of Multi-State Collaborative
Discussion
Student Learning Outcomes Assessment