



MASSACHUSETTS
Department of
Higher Education

The State of DHE Assessment

Community College Council of Presidents
Quinsigamond Community College

Dr. Patricia Marshall, Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs & Student Success

Dr. Robert Awkward, Director of Learning Outcomes Assessment

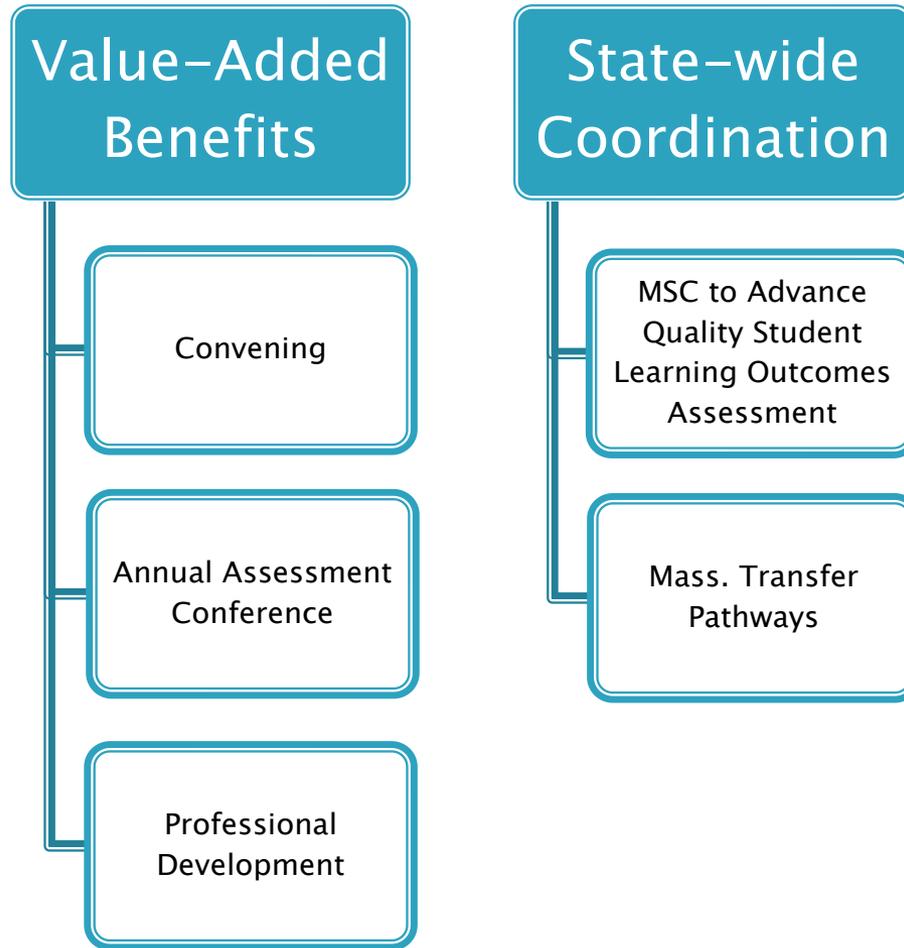
February 17, 2017

Learning Outcomes Assessment

- ▶ Mission:
- ▶ To advance and to deepen the culture of assessment in Massachusetts
- ▶ How?
 - Through convening, professional development, state-wide coordination, and tools and resources
 - By demonstrating tangible outcomes for faculty, for students, for the institution, and for the public.
 - Institutionalizing assessment



Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Benefits for Campuses



Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Selected Value-Added Results for 2016-2017

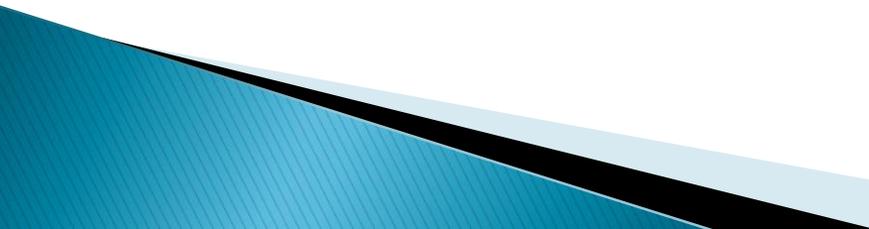
- Dr. Patricia O'Brien reviewed new NEASC standards on assessment in accreditation
 - Presented MSC vs. Mass. results and working to develop campus-level implementation strategies
 - Obtained useful input for the design of a new DHE learning assessment website
 - Identified and presented the Learning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

- ▶ **Sixth Annual Assessment Conference on April 21, 2017 from 8:00am – 4:00pm**
- ▶ **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



Mass. Learning Outcomes Assessment: Professional Development

- ▶ Co-creation of knowledge gained at statewide meetings (i.e., Amcoa and Task Force for Statewide Assessment)
 - ▶ Developing regional professional development strategies
 - ▶ 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
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State-wide Coordination

▶ Campus-level Benefits:

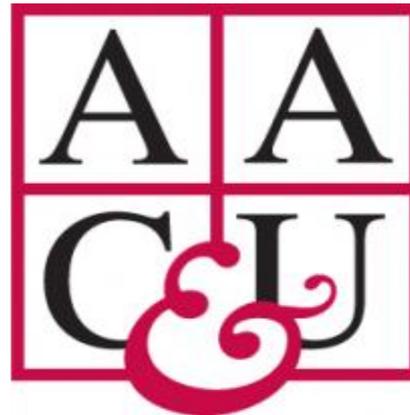
- Saves money
 - Minimizes duplication of efforts and enhances institutional efficiency
 - Increases knowledge sharing
 - Advances the equity agenda (e.g., Mass. Transfer Pathways, Assignment Design workshops)
 - Supports accreditation and institutional effectiveness
 - Identification of new resources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

- ▶ **Sponsors:** State Higher Education Executive Officers



- ▶ Association of American Colleges & Universities



Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Demonstration Year (2015–2016):

Numbers	
12	States
46	Institutions
26	4-Year
20	2-Year
7,114	Pieces of student work
1,156	Assignments submitted

Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

▶ 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

Mass. Transfer Pathways



- ▶ 2016–2017 Activities:
 - Vetting learning outcomes for foundational courses in Biology, Chemistry (Chemistry I/II), and Economics to be completed by April 2017
 - Developing and vetting learning outcomes for foundational courses in Chemistry (Organic Chemistry I/II), History, Political Science, and Psychology to be completed by May 2017
 - Developing and vetting learning outcomes for foundational courses in English and Sociology to be completed by June 2017

Future Initiatives: 2017–2018



▶ **Mass. Transfer Pathways:**

- Develop and vet learning outcomes for the remaining disciplines including:
 - Business Administration
 - Communications & Media Studies
 - Computer Science
 - Criminal Justice
 - Early Childhood Education
 - Liberal Arts
 - Math
 - Natural & Physical Sciences

Future Initiatives: Tools & Resources

▶ **Learning Assessment Research Consortium:**

- Free, modular, online learning outcomes assessment training program
- Modules include:
 - Assessment benefits & barriers
 - Demystifying assessment
 - Goals and objectives
 - Gathering data
 - Using assessment data
 - Developing sustainable assessment practices
- To be presented at the Annual Amcoa Conference in April.
- Planning to be available by Summer 2017

Future Initiatives: Tools & Resources

DHE Information Website

DHE Resources	Campus Resources
Amcoa Team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership - Meeting agendas - Presentation handouts 	Templates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curriculum mapping - Syllabi - Assessment Plans
Task Force on Statewide Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Membership - Meeting agendas - Presentation handouts 	Rubrics:
Annual Amcoa Assessment Conferences:	Campus Assessment Days:
Resource Links	The Multi-State Collaborative:
Assessment articles	MAPDN (Google Group)
	LARC

Future Initiative: Tools & Resources

- ▶ National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment's (NILOA) *Excellence in Assessment* Certification:
 - Provides national recognition for exemplary colleges and universities that:
 - Successfully integrate assessment practices across campus
 - Provide evidence of student learning outcomes to stakeholders
 - Utilize assessment results to guide decision making and improve student performance
 - Serves as a guidepost for other campuses

Learning Outcomes Assessment

- ▶ Questions? Discussion.



