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

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

**State-wide Coordination**
- MSC to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment
- Mass. Transfer Pathways
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
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
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

  ![SHEEO Logo](image)

- Association of American Colleges & Universities

  ![AACU Logo](image)
Multi-State Collaborative to Advance Quality Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Demonstration Year (2015–2016):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>Institutions</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>4-Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>2-Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,114</td>
<td>Pieces of student work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>Assignments submitted</td>
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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
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
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**

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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
Questions? Discussion.
Learning Outcomes Assessment

- Closing