Welcome from the Associate Provost for Academic Programs

It’s fall semester, and we’re off with another cohort of students. You can see the excitement on so many faces.

The Office of Assessment and Program Review is planning the roll-out of the Sharepoint system for circulating assessment plans and reports. The new technology is not “rocket-surgery” – as one of my students put it recently – but you will want to learn a few of the system’s tricks in order to use it easily as well as effectively. Count on attending one or more workshops to show you how it works.

For the third year, “Conversations About Student Learning and Engagement” (CAstLE) runs this fall. You’ll find there a congenial crew of colleagues happy to talk with you about student learning. It’s a great way to spend lunchtime every other week or so.

Please consider applying to be a Provost Assessment Fellow in the spring. Everyone who has signed on with a project came away with a deeper appreciation of student learning and how to improve it. After three years, we’ve got a lot to show. If you want to know more, get in touch with Dr. Sharon Walters (Sharon@siu.edu).

We continue to collect data on learning outcomes from the SIU Advantage program. The brain-child of Dr. Deborah Barnett (the new Assistant Dean of Students), the program makes clever use of OrgSync to monitor learning outcomes in co-curricular activities.

Yes, it’s fall semester. Welcome!

Jim Allen
Associate Provost for Academic Programs
QUESTIONS?

Each quarter we will present what we believe to be practical information regarding assessment practices. However, because we believe assessment works best when feedback is sought, we encourage you to submit any questions regarding any aspect of the assessment process (i.e., at the course level, department level, college level, etc.) to us at assess@siu.edu. We will attempt to answer these questions in the following quarterly’s newsletter and post them on our website under FAQs.
data, or maybe even to present an student learning and engagement or assessment problem you are dealing with and elicit feedback from an audience of peers.

Who Is the Anticipated Audience?: The conference will be designed to meet the needs of faculty, staff, and graduate students who deal with or are interested in learning more about student learning and engagement, diversity and inclusion, and classroom-level and program-level assessment, both academic and co-curricular, to improve programs.

What Type of Proposal Should I Submit?: We seek proposals that illustrate student learning and engagement of all aspects of university life, including classroom, academic support, student life, service learning, and the like. Sessions should go beyond the theory of the assessment process to provide specific examples of ongoing academic, co-curricular, and program-level assessment and the application of assessment results in meaningful ways to improve student learning wherever it occurs. We expect participation that reflects the best thinking in the field, informed by theory, research, and practice. Share how YOU evaluate learning and use your results to improve your work with students.

Can You Provide Me with Some Ideas?: CWAC and Co-CAC invite proposals for presentations, panel discussions, workshops, poster sessions, and multimedia displays on assessment that result in actionable data. The idea is to help us to:

- Discuss the basics of student learning and engagement and assessment
- Promote the concepts of diversity and inclusion
- Promote actionable assessment strategies, such as formative assessment or backward course design
- Highlight innovation and cutting-edge content
- Stimulate and provoke discussion and audience engagement
- Discuss best practices using approaches for different types of learners
- Present evidence based on or supported by research
- Target new, mid-career, and seasoned professionals
- Share how to apply evidence to support campus decision-making
- Provide new approaches to gathering, analyzing, or presenting data
- Demonstrate new methods or case studies of using evidence to assess and improve student learning
- Test new technologies
- Integrate classroom/co-curricular assessment practices

What if I Think I Might Want to Submit, But Don’t Know for Sure?: If you have a presentation idea, but don’t know for sure if it is what the Committees are looking for or if you need assistance

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Upcoming Spotlights

Check out the showcase newsletter where we will provide you with details about the many assessment activities scheduled for the Spring 2017 semester.
TWO PROVOST FELLOW OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Associate Provost for Academic Programs is announcing that two Fellows opportunities -- a Faculty Fellow for Service Learning and an Assessment Fellow -- are available for the spring 2017 semester.

The purpose of the Fellows is to provide assistance to faculty and/or staff who may or may not already be responsible for program-level assessment activities and/or coordinating service learning within a college or program. These individuals often are new faculty or staff members who lack the knowledge they need to perform their assigned duties. The hope is that the Office of Assessment and Program Review and/or the Center for Service-Learning and Volunteerism will provide the Fellow with the needed knowledge and expertise by collaborating on a common project.

The Fellowship is designed to be flexible with competing time commitments. The Associate Provost understands that the Fellow might not be able to devote 10 hours per week during every week of the semester and that some projects might take more than a semester to complete. Again, the purpose of the Fellowships is to provide these individuals with guidance and support on a project that should be mutually beneficial to the department/program and the Associate Provost for Academic Program’s office.

The Associate Provost hopes the department/program will be willing to discuss with the Fellow discretionary time, course release, GA support, and/or OTS to assist with the program’s own activities. The Provost office currently does not have any funds available to support these Fellowships, but it can provide office support and guidance on the collaboration.

Full-time faculty may apply for the Faculty Fellow for Service Learning. All full-time faculty and A/P staff may apply for the Assessment Fellow program.

The deadline date to apply for the spring 2017 fellows is Monday, November 14. Additional information is available at http://assessment.siu.edu/assessment/Fellow_Guidelines.html.

Conversations About Student Learning and Engagement (CAStLE)

The following dates/times have been selected for the fall 2016 semester. We are currently working to schedule facilitators for the events. All CAStLE events will be offered from noon-1:00 pm in Morris Library, rooms 752/754.

Wednesday, September 7 noon-1:00 pm
Thursday, September 22 noon-1:00 pm
Wednesday, October 5 noon-1:00 pm
Thursday, October 20 noon-1:00 pm
Wednesday, November 2 noon-1:00 pm
Thursday, November 17 noon-1:00 pm
Wednesday, December 7 noon-1:00 pm
Thursday, December 15 noon-1:00 pm

We would like these brown bag events to be aimed at strategies to engage students in the learning process (academic/co-curricular). If you have found some strategies that have worked for you and are willing to share them with a wider audience, we would greatly appreciate your e-mailing us at assess@siu.edu.
In accordance with our accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), each and every degree program on campus must annually report on its student learning outcomes. This is a reminder that annual assessment reports are due on Friday, November 18, 2016 for all academic programs. These reports should be based on fall 2015 and spring 2016 semester data.

All programs will be submitting the Assessment Report Template online through Sharepoint. All program-level assessment coordinators and chairpersons will be able to access the form online at assessment.siu.edu/assessment/forms. Please note the form has not changed. The only change is that program assessment coordinators will now submit it online through Sharepoint, which will allow us to better track submissions for the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit. Several training opportunities on completing the form have been scheduled; and Dr. Sharon Walters, Assistant Director of Assessment and Program Review (sharon@siu.edu), is also available to provide one-on-one training.

All reports will be reviewed by College-Wide Assessment Teams, colleagues in your college who have generously agreed to assist programs with their assessment activities, as required by the Higher Learning Commission.

If you or your colleagues have any questions, please let Dr. Walters know. She is happy to assist you. Thank you for your cooperation.

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The August 2016 newsletter from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) contains a timely and interesting article, “EIA Designation: Why Campus-Level Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes?” which discusses the faculty role in the assessment of student learning.

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Fall Assessment Workshop in September

Want to learn more about program-level assessment? Need some guidance with writing student learning outcomes for your course or program? Then make plans to attend the two-part assessment workshop scheduled for Thursday, September 29, 2016 in Morris Library Room 139. Both sessions will be structured for faculty (academic), program assessment coordinators, and staff (co-curricular) to learn more about their role in program-level assessment at the university-level.

Assessment 101 – An overview of why and how we assess student learning at the program level (academic and co-curricular) will be offered from 10:00 am – noon.

Assessment 102 – Measuring Learning and Mapping (academic and co-curricular) will be offered from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

We would appreciate your preregistering for the workshop by sending an e-mail with your contact information to assess@siu.edu. This will help us better plan the sessions.

Unable to attend either session, but want to learn more? Please contact us, so we can set up a workshop for your college/department. We are more than happy to come to your building and offer a workshop.
in fully developing an idea, please contact Sharon Walters at sharon@siu.edu or 453-5669.

Presentation Formats
When submitting a proposal, please select one of the following presentation formats:

1. **Presentation (45 minutes)** – One or more individuals make a 30-minute presentation on a single topic, followed by an additional 10 to 15 minutes of Q&A with the audience.

2. **Panel discussion (45–60 minutes)** – Each panel member makes a brief presentation, followed by open discussion and Q&A with the audience.

3. **Workshop/Interactive Presentation (120-minute sessions)** – Individuals will provide hands-on assessment related opportunities for conference attendees. Should focus on practical tools/strategies/methods for attendees to use.

4. **Multimedia Display (45-minute session)** – Individuals or small groups present a project or results with multimedia or mixed applications on one or two 3- by 4-foot screens on a media:scape or at a BizTable. Presenters can display Powerpoint, video, and/or web-based applications. Conference attendees circulate through a variety of “posters” and engage in conversations with the presenters.

5. **Poster (45-minute session)** – Individuals or small groups explain a project that is summarized on a printed poster displayed on an easel or taped to the wall. Conference attendees circulate through a variety of “posters” and engage in conversations with the presenters.

How to Submit a Proposal
E-mail proposals that include the elements listed below by the end of the day **Friday, October 14, 2016**, to assess@siu.edu. Please specify the presentation format (i.e., presentation, panel, poster, multimedia) and times you would be available to present. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Walters, Assistant Director, Assessment and Program Review at 453-5669.

Proposal Guidelines and Submission Requirements
- Presentation/Panel/Workshop/Poster/Multimedia Display Title: The title should accurately reflect the assessment focus of your presentation and make the reader want to learn more.
- Identification of All Presenters: Full contact information includes name, title, telephone number, and e-mail address.
- Session Description: Include a brief (50-80 words) description, summary, and highlights of your session. Please be concise, accurate, and specific. Should your session be chosen by our Proposal Review Committee, this description will be used in program materials. Please do not use abbreviations or acronyms in your description. We reserve the right to edit content for brevity, grammar and clarity.
- Session Outcomes: What will the audience learn? What content and skills do you hope to provide your participants?
- Engagement of Session Participants: Include an outline of the specific active instructional strategies the session will employ to engage session participants with the session materials and/or produce a session deliverable.

How are Proposals Reviewed?
Members of the Proposal Review Committees will review proposals according to the following criteria: Availability of space, presenter mix, presentation type, and perceived quality and impact. **Applicants will be notified Friday, November 18, 2016. The Conference schedule will be finalized by Friday, December 16, 2016.**

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

–Benjamin Franklin
SIU Advantage Program

One year ago, the SIU Advantage program was simply an idea in Dr. Deborah Barnett and Heather Brake’s assessment fellow proposal. After gaining input from faculty, staff, and students, Barnett and Brake piloted the SIU Advantage in spring 2016 with more than 50 co-curricular programs linked to four student learning outcome categories: cultural competency, intellectual and professional skills, interpersonal and intrapersonal development, and personal and social responsibility.

This fall, Barnett expects more than 100 of SIU’s co-curricular learning opportunities and programs to connect to SIU Advantage outcomes. A comprehensive fall 2016 wall calendar was printed and distributed to each residence hall room on campus to raise awareness of these programs and of campus services. Calendars were distributed to commuter and off-campus students at the August 25 Involvement Fair.

SIU’s OrgSync allows programs to create SIU Advantage events, track student attendance, and assess student learning. Each time a student participates in a designated program, OrgSync records the event and learning category on the student’s co-curricular résumé (CCR). The CCR can serve as a valuable tool to demonstrate skill and development in key areas that employers seek, thus giving students the SIU Advantage!

The SIU Advantage is a unique program recently selected by NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education for presentation at the NASPA IV-West/East Conference in St. Louis last November.

To continue implementation and growth of the program, Barnett is seeking input by establishing an SIU Advantage advisory team of faculty, staff, and students. If interested in the advisory team or in learning more about how to include programs as part of the SIU Advantage, email dbarnett@siu.edu.

BRAGGING RIGHTS

New this fall . . .

The Associate Provost for Academic Programs office has launched a new website to serve students. The solutionfinder site helps students find the correct avenue to take when trying to solve problems or issues on campus. Cards are available for hand-out to your students. If you would like to help get the word out, contact Rhonda Ferguson in the APAP office at 453-7653 or rferguson@siu.edu.
The following resources are provided to help faculty/staff learn more about program-level assessment.

Academic Program-Level Assessment


Excellent resource for new faculty and/or those who would like additional information about program-level assessment. Provides guidelines and suggestions for developing a plan for program assessment.


Provides information on writing goals, objectives and outcomes. Also includes examples of curriculum mapping for use at both the course-level and program-level.


Excellent resource for new faculty and/or those who would like additional information about program-level assessment. Includes a “Goal Definition Worksheet” that programs might consider using when revising/creating an assessment plan.

Student Affairs Program-Level Assessment


Provides a description for creating an assessment plan that all programs might consider.


Excellent resource for student affairs practitioners to better understand program-level assessment.

NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education), retrieved from https://www.naspa.org/constituent-groups/kcs/assessment-evaluation-and-research/resources

Contains a wealth of resources for the student affairs practitioner.

Penn, Jeremy. Introduction to Assessment in the Division of Student Affairs: North Dakota State University, retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtUcrErbTc

Brief overview of the assessment cycle.


Although aimed at academic advisors, contains useful information for all disciplines.

Sharepoint Training Dates Scheduled

Following are the Sharepoint training sessions scheduled for the fall 2016 semester. The training sessions will be conducted by Dr. Sharon Walters, Assistant Director, Assessment and Program Review, and Dr. Elaine Jurkowski, Professor, School of Social Work. All sessions will be held in the Wham 112 computer lab.

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<tr>
<td>Sept. 14</td>
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Please contact Sharon, if none of these times/dates work for you, so she can schedule a one-on-one training session.