

The Beginnings: 2006-2008

- Bucks County Community College and Montgomery County Community College came together around a shared opportunity:
 - Collaboration on faculty professional development.
- Shared faculty development needs:
 - Using technology effectively.
 - New pedagogies.
 - Assessment of student learning outcomes.
- Six colleges involved by 2008.



Assessment: The Topic That Rose to the Top

- **Shared Challenges and Concerns:**
 - How do you create a “culture of assessment?”
 - Complacency on campus: “How serious is our accrediting body, anyway?”
 - Are there resources that address the community college context, and where do you find them?
 - How do you assess General Education?



Current Consortium Members



The Right Choice



Community College of Philadelphia
1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130 • 215-751-8010



Our Outcomes

- Over time, trust develops – we share assessment results with each other (the good and not so good.)
- Network/Brain Trust
 - General Education assessment.
 - Use of standardized instruments.
 - Types and uses of placement tests.
 - Experience across different positions within our institutions: IR Directors, Teaching Center Directors, Faculty, Assessment Directors, etc.
 - Experience across different institutional structures for assessment.



Organizational Logistics

- Regional Group
 - Goal 1 – Meet face-to-face 3 to 4 times a semester.
 - Commuting time a consideration (max. 90 minutes ideally.)
- Lunchtime Meetings
 - Rotating locations.
 - Host college provides the meal.
 - Breaking bread together builds community.
 - Noon to 3 p.m. (beat the rush hour traffic!)



Organizational Logistics

- Meeting Agendas:
 - Collaboratively developed.
 - Focus on assessment happenings at the school hosting the meeting.
 - Planning the annual Assessment Summit.

Assessment Summit Logistics

- Different formats/matched to goals each time and overall:
 - Facilitator—whole day.
 - Concurrent sessions.
 - Panels.
 - Table talks (by topic/college.)
 - Participants gather by institution at the end to discuss the take-aways.



Assessment Summit Logistics

- Second Friday in April.
- Rotating locations.
- Host college provides the venues for presentations and break-out sessions.
- Share cost of keynote presenters (2009 Summit.)
- Hospitality costs shared; each participating college pays \$20 per attendee.
- Professional development that does not break the bank!



Assessment Summit Topics

- 2009 (MCCC): "What Middle States Expects for Assessment of Student Learning"
 - Presented by Linda Suskie.
- 2010 (RACC): "Telling Our Stories: Faculty Assessment Project Showcase"
 - English; Math; Accounting; Allied Health; Art; Psychology; Engineering; ESL; Developmental Ed.
- 2011 (NCC): "Assessing General Education – Critical Thinking"
 - Philosophy; Math; Criminal Justice; Business; English.

Assessment Summit Topics

- 2012 (LCCC): "Closing the Loop: Results/Changes from Assessment"
 - General Education shared rubrics—oral/written communications; "Integrated Knowledge" outcome; Research papers; Computer Literacy; changes in Psych programs; Applying for Graduation (Institutional Effectiveness outcome.)
- 2013 (DCCC): "Direct Accreditation Experiences: 'What have you done for me lately?' or 'They're not kidding this time!'"
 - Luzerne CCC shared the results of their accreditation experience and what they did about it.
 - Collaboration on program assessment

Adopt the “Culture of Assessment and Improvement”

- Conquer fear.
- Focus on what is you hold in common, not on how you differ.
- Join the “team” – communicate and share to improve student learning.
- Celebrate successful collaboration – Keep the party going!

Future Opportunities for Collaboration

- Cross-institutional Consulting on assessment projects/areas.
- Data collection and analysis.
- Completion and Success Theme.
- Assessing Institutional Effectiveness.
- Sustaining Assessment (post-Accreditation.)
- Engaging Adjunct Faculty.
- Course-Based Assessment (as opposed to Gen Ed. and/or Program.)
- Developmental Education.



Final Thoughts: Challenges

- Maintaining regional focus.
- Continuity in membership (ebb and flow of assessment personnel.)
- Establish and sustain a regional event.
- Maintaining assessment focus.
- Funding?



Final Thoughts: Opportunities

- We all have to do it; why not do it together???
- We are trying to change the culture of our institutions – the focus is on learning, not evaluation.
 - Increase faculty involvement in assessment at our institutions.
 - Increase information sharing among assessment professionals at our institutions.
- Increasing trust and transparency.



Question for Discussion



How will you get started back home?

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