

February 3, 2009

Seventh Annual Northern Nevada Assessment Conference

Joe Crowley Student Union, University of Nevada, Reno February 6, 2009

Co-sponsored by Truckee Meadows Community College, University of Nevada, Reno and
Western Nevada College

Conference Program

8:30 - 9:00		Joe Crowley Student Union; 3rd Floor, Theatre
<i>Opening</i>		John Mahaffy
<i>Welcome</i>		Howard Rosenberg

9:00 - 10:15	Plenary Panel	Joe Crowley Student Union; 3rd Floor, Theatre
<i>Recruitment and Retention in Challenging Times</i>		Serge Herzog Fabienne McPhail Naples Kathleen Kolbet Bea Babbitt Bill Cathey

Student recruitment and retention are vital to the missions of our institutions. We must ensure that prospective students understand the value of higher education and understand the merits of what we have to offer. Once students enroll, we must be prepared to employ institutional resources in ways that support their success. This all can be much more complex than it may first appear. Our panel will help by offering examples of what we know, what we are doing and what works regarding student recruitment and retention.

10:15 - 10:30		4th Floor, Great Room
<i>Break:</i>		<i>Coffee, Tea and Goodies</i>

10:30 - 11:45	Round Table	3rd Floor, Room 317
<i>Recruitment and Retention: The Student Services Connection</i>		Fabienne McPhail Naples

A follow-up to the opening panel on recruitment and retention for people interested in discussing how various student services programs can and do enhance recruitment and retention.

February 3, 2009

10:30 - 11:45 Workshop 3rd Floor, Room 323

How to Assess and Improve Writing Across the Curriculum

Jane Detweiler	Zach Bankston	Crystal Colombini	Cassie Hemstrom
	Stephanie Callan	Maura Grady	David Marquard

This session will focus on ways to understand shared discipline or field values and how these affect evaluation of student writing in assessment projects. The panelists will offer background on two portfolio assessment projects conducted in the Core Writing Program. Also, in a workshop-style approach, we will engage participants in a preliminary discussion of how to operationalize shared ideas of “good writing” with measureable features. Contextual validation of rubrics will also be addressed.

10:30 - 11:45 Round Table 3rd Floor, Room 324

Getting From Here to There With Institution-wide Assessment.

Bridgett Boulton

Join us for a discussion about the challenges and successes involved with developing and implementing assessment as an integrated component of faculty and institutional practice.

As demands for accountability increase in times of diminishing resources, assessment becomes even more important. How do we build a culture of assessment? How do we sustain assessment efforts? How do we address legislative and accreditation requirements to demonstrate student learning? How do we build on our successes and move forward in these uncertain times? Please come and share strategies to meet the challenges as well as our successes.

10:30 - 11:45 Presentation 4th Floor, Room 402

Using Free, Open-source Technology to Track Assessment.

Chad McCully

The presentation will cover the possibilities of using open-source and freely available web applications, or more specifically content management systems (CMS) to aid in the collection and completion of assessment data. Aspects of a CMS that will be included and related to assessment: social networking, team management, wiki content, revisions, workflow, and flexible form creation for the collection of different types of data. Overall, this presentation will focus on the potential of free technology to aid assessment projects during a time when proprietary and expensive software may be less desirable or perhaps beyond reach.

February 3, 2009

10:30 - 11:45 Round Table **4th Floor, Room 420**

Gauging Recruitment and Retention Success: From Advocacy to Empirical Research Serge Herzog

A follow-up to the opening panel on recruitment and retention for people interested in discussing how institutional research data can help inform the design and analysis of institutional recruitment and retention strategies and practices.

11:45 - 12:45 **4th Floor, Ballroom B**

Lunch
Complimentary

12:45 - 1:45 Forum **4th Floor, Ballroom A**

Assessment in Challenging Times Jeanne Hilton

We all know that the work we do in higher education exerts pressures on us individually, as well as on our programs. This plenary session will explore the relationship of assessment in relation to those pressures. It may be easy to conclude that assessment only adds pressure, but how assessment can become a tool to help alleviate pressures will be discussed as well.

1:55 - 3:10 Round Table **3rd Floor, Room 317**

UNLV's Retention Strategy: A Developing Model Bea Babbitt Liz Baldizan

A follow-up to the opening panel on recruitment and retention for people interested in discussing the design and assessment of institutional retention strategies and practices.

1:55 - 3:10 Presentation **3rd Floor, Room 323**

Academic Success and LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory) Susan Priest Cheryl Pawluk

A Review of research on predicting academic success with the LASSI assessment tool in introductory psychology and college success courses. Participants will discuss the academic strategies and skills measured by LASSI, and some ways of using LASSI results to improve student learning.

February 3, 2009

1:55 - 3:10 Panel **3rd Floor, Room 324**

*Using Campus
Network Technology
for Assessment*

Chad
McCully

Fred
Lokken

Alina
Solovyova-Vincent

The session discusses the use of Learning Management Systems (LMS)(e.g. WebCt/Angel/Moodle) in assessment. Representatives from TMCC, UNR and WNC will discuss specific assessment tools available in their LMS and also offer a few case study applications. The panel will answer questions from those attending.

1:55 - 3:10 Workshop **4th Floor, Room 402**

*Chocolate Covered
Rubrics*

Crystal
Swank

Why rubrics? Good rubrics help students know what is expected on assignments and can improve student performance. Grading can actually be faster, easier and more equitable using rubrics. Rubrics are also a useful tool in assessing student learning and our own teaching effectiveness. If you're not using rubrics but want to get started, this workshop is for you. This interactive session will present the basics of creating rubrics in a few easy steps (creating a rubric using chocolate chip cookies as an example), as well as practice using a rubric for assessment.

1:55 - 3:10 Round
Table **4th Floor, Room 420**

*Extracting Quality
Information Out of
Qualitative Data*

Sandra Weinstein
Bever

Qualitative data can be difficult to mold into something useful. In this session, participants will discuss strategies and methods that will help mine information out of "soft data" sources that are both meaningful and actionable. While the data might be "soft," qualitative findings often provide a powerful and impactful way to strengthen "hard data" findings.

1:55 - 3:10 Round
Table **4th Floor, Ballroom A**

*Using Assessment
Data for Retention
and Success*

Kathleen
Kolbet

A follow-up to the opening panel on recruitment and retention for people interested in discussing how assessment data can be used to increase student learning and retention. The Chemistry Program at TMCC has been engaged in an assessment program for the last three years and is in the process of using that data to change how certain topics are taught, how faculty are trained, and how the program is being changed to increase student retention and success. A brief overview of the assessment process will be presented, followed by a discussion on how the Chemistry Program at TMCC has modified their program to increase student retention and what more still needs to be done.