Spotlight on Assessment

Assessment Matters
Regional Community College Assessment Conference

Johnson County Community College is proud to host the 7th Annual Regional Community College Assessment Conference Friday, May 5, in the Regnier Center.

Keynote speakers are from the Center of Inquiry Wabash College and the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium. Dr. Charles Blaich, Director, and Dr. Kathleen Wise, Associate Director, will present *Between the Rock and the Hard Place: Lessons from practitioners who've navigated external demands and internal resistance to improve student learning.*

The conference day begins with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. Friday. The first of three breakout sessions are at 9 a.m.

Breakout session topics include:
- *Establishing a Culture of Assessment in Student Affairs*, presented by Kevin W. Joseph, University of Kansas
- *Assessment Across the Liberal Arts*, presented by a panel from Rockhurst University
- *A Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Journey: From Concept through Dissertation*, presented by Jane Zaccardi, Highland Community College

There will be a Q & A with our keynote speakers, and much more. You will want to stay until the last session, *Assessment Today and Tomorrow*, which is a panel presentation. The conference wraps up at 4 p.m.

This year’s conference includes **two preconference workshops** on Thursday, May 4. The first, *Strategies for Sustainable Co-Curricular Assessment*, begins at 1:30 p.m. and will be led by Dr. Josie Welsh from the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at Missouri Southern State University.

Following at 3 p.m. will be *Asking the Right Question, the Key to Good Assessment* led by Dr. Sheri Barrett of Johnson County Community College and Melissa Giese from Metropolitan Community College.

Join us at 5 p.m. for the *Assessment Matters Conference welcome reception*. The preconference cost is $25.

Register online now through our blog: [blogs.jccc.edu/outcomesassessment](http://blogs.jccc.edu/outcomesassessment) – just click on the **2017 Regional Community College Assessment Conference** tab. The cost for the daylong conference is $85 and includes continental breakfast, breaks, lunch and materials. Mini-grants are available on a first-come, first-served basis to help with conference fees – applications are located on the OOA blog on the forms/documents page.

Keep checking the blog often for updates on the program, especially as **May 5** draws near, and please follow us on Twitter: @JCCCOOA.
If you have never attended or you need a refresher, join us for the Assessment by Design workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., August 14. This workshop leads participants through the Cycle of Assessment with a goal of developing an assessment plan for the upcoming academic year.

In this highly interactive workshop, participants develop practical assessment strategies and plans; design a meaningful research question to drive their assessment efforts; develop an assessment instrument and create a plan for its implementation. The workshop culminates in a hands-on experience that focuses on how to report out and act on collected data.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please register with CRN 30001.

Assessment by Design

EXCELLENCE IN OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT AWARD WINNER:
Professor Sheryl Hadley
Economics Department

This year’s award winner has experienced the long and winding assessment trail over the last six years. Working within her department to define learning outcomes, develop appropriate assessments and long-term goals.

“During those years, we mainly learned what we were doing wrong, but that’s what helped us build the efficient assessment tools and data collection we use today.”

The external reviewer appreciated the strong correlation between the assessment and the learning outcome the department chose to measure, and the overall evolution of assessment processes.

Mini-Grants Still Available!

The purpose of Outcomes Assessment Mini-Grants is to provide divisions or departments in the instructional branch a source of funds to support evidence-based initiatives to assess JCCC’s student learning outcomes (SLOs) in credit courses. So, if you have a summer conference, workshop or retreat that meets these guidelines, fill out a mini-grant application before the summer break.

Mini-grants are on a rolling deadline of the 15th of each month during the academic year. However it should be noted that funds received in the budget year must be spent prior to July 1 when the next budget year begins.

Full-time and adjunct teaching faculty in the instructional branch may apply and grant award amounts are available up to $750 each.

Contact OOA for an application or visit the forms/documents page at blogs.jccc.edu/outcomesassessment.