The 7th annual Regional Community College Assessment Conference hosted more than 100 attendees hailing from 10 states on Friday, May 5, 2017. This year’s conference welcomed the addition of a pre-conference workshop on Thursday afternoon, May 4. Over 30 people were in attendance for topics related to co-curricular assessment from presenters Dr. Josie Welsh of Missouri Southern State University, Dr. Sheri Barrett of JCCC, and Melissa Giese of Metropolitan Community College.

The keynote speakers this year were Drs. Charles Blaich and Kathleen Wise from the Center of Inquiry at Wabash College and the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium. The speakers addressed navigating external demands and internal resistance to improving student learning. The conference attendees’ feedback on the keynote was overwhelmingly positive. The audience appreciated the thought-provoking ideas on how to enhance and frame assessment practices and the reminder that effective assessment requires conversation. Their shared insight on assessment was appreciated by all.

JCCC presenters included Dr. Sheri Barrett, Professor Bill Robinson and Professor Heather Seitz. The conference also welcomed presenters from:

- Emporia State University
- Neosho County Community College
- Kansas City Kansas Community College
- University of Kansas
- Highland Community College
- Kansas State University
- Rockhurst University

The next conference will be Spring 2019. More information will be provided in the future.
KCPDC Faculty Development Offering

The Kansas City Professional Development Council is sponsoring a session at JCCC on Wednesday, October 18: Assessing Program and Learning Outcomes presented by our own Dr. Sheri Barrett.

This session will provide faculty with a unifying framework to organize assessment activities at both the Program and Course level of learning outcomes. Learning Outcomes for the workshop:

1. To provide useful strategies on how to assess learning at the programmatic and course level

2. To illustrate ways faculty can effectively utilize assessment activities to improve teaching and learning

For more information on KCPDC-sponsored events, please visit their website at www.kcpdc.org.

Assessment by the Book (Club)

This year we are trying a new experiment – a joint effort of the Assessment Office and the Faculty/Staff Development Office – a faculty assessment book club. The book we are using for this inaugural offering is Assessing Academic Programs in Higher Education by Mary J. Allen. Always a staple in our office, this book is a slim offering (eight chapters) packed with lots of great information on the basics of assessment. Everything from defining learning objectives, direct assessment techniques, to making sense of assessment data. This book is a great assessment primer.

So far, we have 16 faculty signed up to join us on this inaugural journey. Interested in joining? Call the Assessment Office for more information.

New Name, Same Great Service

The Office of Outcomes Assessment is now officially the Office of Assessment, Evaluation and Institutional Outcomes.

Our office is still here for your assessment and academic program review needs as well as administrative program review and accreditation questions.