Sustainability and Assessment

Gabe Estill and Stephenie Presseller
Moraine Valley Community College
March 11, 2013
Innovations 2013
About our College

Located in Palos Hills, IL
20 miles southwest of downtown Chicago
District population: ~400,000
District square miles: 139
Approximately 18,000 students
College’s Official Sustainability Statement

“Moraine Valley Community College will carry out actions in all operations, academics, and in our community that meet current needs, while taking care to protect and enhance the social, environmental and economic resources needed by future generations to enjoy a quality of life equal to or greater than the present.”
Major Accomplishments
Three Areas of Focus

- Operations
- Teaching
- Assessment
Operations
Teaching

- Greening Your Curriculum Project
Assessment

- Wait. What about student learning?
Origins of Sustainability and Assessment at MVCC

- 2011 Sustainability Symposium
- AQIP General Education Project

Why Gen Ed?

- AQIP Action Project
- Sustainability as a Gen Ed Outcome
- Multiple disciplines
- Create well-rounded students
Merger between Sustainability and Gen Ed

- Why Gen Ed?
  - AQIP Action Project
  - Sustainability as a Gen Ed Outcome
  - Multiple disciplines
  - Create well-rounded students
Getting Started

Our Definition of Assessment

- Measuring, documenting, and improving student learning

- Answers three primary questions:
  1.) What do we want students to know and be able to do?
  2.) How will we know?
  3.) How will we improve?
The Process

Address two needs:
1.) Create measurable outcome
2.) Provide assignment criteria
Gen Ed Learning Outcome

Students will:
Recognize one’s legal, ethical, social, and sustainable responsibilities
The Rubric

Team tasked with creating a rubric that could be used easily across a variety of courses that infuse sustainability into their curricular and instructional practices.

Two Admin (Sustainability and Assessment)
Two Faculty (Biology and History)
Rubric

The Rubric

Two 90 minute sessions:
- Define meaning
- Create device
But how?

Students will:
1.) Identify the ecological processes and how choices affect the environment
2.) Demonstrate awareness of social justice and equity issues and their impact on the global population
3.) Distinguish ethically responsible business practices.
Pilot It

Four courses in Spring 12
- BIO 112
- EAS 120
- EAS 125
- NAT111

N = 312

Included additional courses in Fall 12
Results

- Strengths: Wider Relevancy
- Opportunities: Application
Using the Results

- Weave into department assessment plans
- Create resources bank for instructors
- Keep measuring, keep documenting, and keep improving
My Questions for You

1.) What are your institutions’ challenges related to sustainability?
2.) What are your institutions’ challenges related to assessment?
3.) Do your institutions have a sustainability credential for students?
4.) What are the holes in higher education’s commitment and practices related to sustainability?
Resources and Contact

For more information and resources, visit
http://www.morainevalley.edu/sustainability

http://www.morainevalley.edu/studentassessment

Contact info:
estillj@morainevalley.edu
pressellers@morainevalley.edu