Assessment Expo 2009

Dear NIU Community,

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to the 2009 Assessment Expo. On February 20, from 8:30 to noon in the Holmes Student Center Sky Room, Northern Illinois will showcase ten exemplary assessment practices. Selected by the University Assessment Panel, each is displayed in a poster and will be discussed in one of the four roundtables of the day – “Closing the Loop,” “Innovative Technology,” “Use of Multiple Measures,” and “Use of Rubrics.” Click the tabs below to learn more.

I hope you will take this opportunity to learn from some of our best practices and to share your own assessment experiences and insights. Accountability pressures are increasing from the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the federal government, and our own regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission. It is now more important than ever that we broadly discuss our assessment methods and share our best practices with the whole campus community. Such collaboration not only makes us more accountable to external parties, but helps us to provide the best teaching and learning environments for our students.

After the Expo, feel free to contact me if you would like more materials and resources for assessing your programs.

See you February 20!

Carolinda Douglass, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Assessment Services

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30 Registration
9:00 Opening Remarks
9:15 Poster sessions
10:00 Round table discussions
11:30 Closing remarks

Thanks to the University Assessment Panel and Campus Assessment Network for supporting the Expo.
Josephine Umoren, Coordinator Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Administration Department of Family, Consumer, and Nutrition Sciences  
jxu1@niu.edu  
753-6351  
“Final Project: Application of Strategic Management Hospitality Operations”  

Students independently run a restaurant or analyze a company’s financial status. Assessment findings from these capstone course projects lead to curricular adjustments.

Sandi Carlisle, Director Recreation Services  
carlisle@niu.edu  
753-9419  
“Student Employee Learning Experiences”  

Leadership programming for student supervisors promotes development of professional skills and enhances learning. Student employees reflect on their work experiences and ascertain what they learned.

F. Michelle Bringas, Director  
mbringas@niu.edu  
752-1167  
Asian American Center  
“Peer Mentor Training”  

Asian American Resource Center developed the “OHANA” Peer Mentor Training Program and collaborated with Center for Black Studies, CHANCE program, and Latino Resource Center to coordinate a Training Retreat Day for peer mentor participants in each of the respective programs.
Brianno Coller, Associate Professor  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
coller@ceet.niu.edu  
753-9944

“Effectiveness of Using a Video Game to Teach a Course in Mechanical Engineering”

In the numerical methods course, all assignments and learning are built around a video/computer game. Students are given the task of writing computer programs to race a simulated car around a track. In doing so, students learn and implement numerical methods content.

David Ballantine, Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
dballant@niu.edu  
753-6857

“Incorporation of Personal Response System (‘Clicker’) Questions in Introductory Chemistry”

Typically three to four “clicker” questions are incorporated into the lecture, spaced approximately 15 minutes apart, to obtain a benchmark of students’ comprehension of the concepts presented. Improved examination scores represent evidence of pedagogical value of this technology.
Omar Ghrayeb, Chair
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
oghrayeb@niu.edu
753-5660

“Senior Design Performance Appraisal”

Capstone senior design projects are sponsored by local industry. Supervisors from the sponsoring company closely observe students, who work in teams as part of larger professional teams. Faculty project supervisors and corresponding industry personnel assess student achievements.

Margie Cook, Director
LGBT Resource Center
mcook@niu.edu
753-2235

“Straight Talk Speakers Bureau”

Volunteer student speakers gain confidence and competence through training, speaking engagements, and self-reflection. Student learning is synonymous with the creation of a more inclusive community.
Betty Birner, Professor  
Department of English  
bbirner@niu.edu  
752-6602

Co-presenter:  
Susan Callahan, Associate Professor  
Department of English  
callsusan@niu.edu  
753-6610

“Choosing Appropriate Training Solutions”

Student teams develop training plans in response to fictional RFPs. Outside experts evaluate the proposed training solutions for content as well as presentation.

Sarah Marsh, Chair  
Management Department  
smarsh@niu.edu  
753-6211

“M.A. Teacher Certification Portfolios”

Students complete portfolios covering philosophy, content knowledge, planning of pedagogy and construction of materials, developing attitudes and dispositions, execution of planning and instruction, and professional attitudes/distributions.

Greg Conderman, Associate Professor  
Department of Teaching and Learning  
gconderman@niu.edu  
753-8436

“Rubrics for Lesson and Instructional Unit Plans”

Students write a variety of lesson plans and Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs), which are evaluated using a LiveText rubric. Faculty then expand their pedagogical techniques and target student learning needs.
February 14

Assessment Expo
Holmes Student Center Sky Room
8:30 - 11:00

Register Now

February 20

April 24-26

North Carolina State University
2009 Undergraduate Assessment Symposium
Embassy Suites, Cary, NC
Registration deadline: February 20

April 17-21

Higher Learning Commission
Annual Meeting
Hyatt Regency Chicago

Register Now