The twelfth meeting of the Campus Assessment Network (CAN) was held Friday, October 10, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Campus Life 115.

Members present:
Rowene Linden (Accountancy), Greg Long (Allied Health & Communicative Disorders), Carolinda Douglass, Amy Swanson (Assessment Services), Sonja Herington (College of Business), Cassandra Maxwell-Simmons (College of Engineering), Sandi Carlisle (Recreation Services), Michael Stang (Residential Life, Housing & Dining), Amy Franklin, Evelyn Comber (Student Affairs), Judy Chitwood (Theatre and Dance), Deborah Robertson (College of Visual & Performing Arts)

Announcements

Douglass announced upcoming assessment events:

- The 2009 Assessment Expo has been scheduled for February 20, 2009 and will be held in the HSC Sky Room. The University Assessment Panel approved 10 outstanding assessment practices to be recognized at the Expo this year.
- Susan Hatfield will hold a full day workshop on March 20, 2009 starting at 8:00 a.m..

Further details and information about registering for these events will be forthcoming.

Focus Group Update

Analysis continues on data from the focus groups conducted in spring semester to assess student knowledge about assessment and student learning. Coding of the transcripts is almost complete.

Update on Common Assessment Message Related to Culture of Learning

The Campus Assessment Message Subcommittee (Simmons, Swanson, Douglass, Franklin, Comber, and Zack) developed an assessment message for four different audiences: students, faculty/staff, administrators, and external parties. Simmons provided several different designs for potential poster layouts. CAN members were asked for feedback on both the quality and the overall presentation of the messages.
CAN members agreed upon the following messages:

**Student Map to Excellence:**
- Accept responsibility for your learning
- Shape your college experience
- Show employers what you know
- Emphasize and highlight your successes
- Strengthen your self-awareness
- Succeed at NIU and beyond!

**Faculty/Staff Map to Excellence:**
- Ascertain what students are actually learning
- Select learning outcomes that are meaningful, measurable, and manageable
- Stimulate creativity in teaching and learning
- Establish improvements based on data-driven results
- Showcase learning successes
- Strengthen student learning at NIU!

**Administrator Map to Excellence:**
- Assist in creating a supportive environment for assessment
- Show that institutional leaders understand and value assessment
- Supply adequate resources for assessment needs
- Encourage, recognize, and reward assessment efforts
- Sustain a climate of conversation around assessment
- Showcase our successes at NIU!

**Community (or Community Partner) Map to Excellence:**
- Affirm what students are learning
- Support student learning via community involvement
- Strengthen external accountability
- Establish how your involvement benefits student learning
- Shape tomorrow’s leaders
- Showcase our joint successes!
Several CAN members thought that a majority of the poster designs were oriented towards business majors. Members liked the idea of a globe as a common theme to tie the different messages together. Robertson suggested that the Visual Communication program specialization in the School of Art might be able to further assist with the visual designs for the assessment message posters.

Different ideas for dissemination of the posters were discussed. Rowene suggested that the posters could be put on display for accreditation visits. Carlisle added that they could also be introduced at different presentations or talks. Members also mentioned the possibility of associating the posters with the CAN.

Assessment Practice: Sandi Carlisle

Sandi Carlisle presented on an assessment of the Student Leadership Team Training Program in Recreation Services. The assessment consisted of conducting a needs assessment where each student participant rated the importance of a particular competency to their Recreation Services position and to their future career, and the extent to which they felt they had mastered that competency. These ratings were compared with ratings provided by observers obtained through a staff needs assessment. A gap analysis was conducted in order to view the differences between self and observer ratings. PowerPoint and materials for the presentation are available at: Blackboard/Community/Campus Assessment Community/Documents/Assessment Practice Presentation Materials.

New Business

CAN members who have an assessment practice they would like to share or get feedback on are encouraged to contact Carolinda Douglass at cdoug@niu.edu.

The next meeting will be held on November 21, 2008 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Campus Life 115.