



**Northern Illinois  
University**

**Assessment at NIU**  
***BOT Presentation***

**Chris Parker, Office of Assessment Services (OAS)**

**Brian Lance, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management (SAEM)**

# Assessment Goals & Mandates



## Goals:

1. Assure high quality academic programs
2. Foster continuous improvement of academic programs and support services

## Mandates:

1. Higher Learning Commission
2. Specialized Accreditors (33)
3. IBHE

***“Promoting Student Career Success”***

# HLC Findings – *Then and Now*



**2004**

“While significant progress has been made in assessment of student achievement at NIU...., much remains to be done.”

**2014**

“NIU has developed practices and procedures that are developing an institution-wide culture of assessment.”

# Breadth of Assessment at NIU



## Academic Affairs

- 147 IBHE-approved Degree Programs
- 18 Academic Support Units:
  - Student Engagement, University Honors
  - NIU PLUS, First-Year Composition
- Campus-wide Initiatives:
  - University Writing Project, Alumni Survey

## Student Affairs & Enrollment Management

- 20 Departments/Offices
- Campus-wide Initiatives:
  - Student Satisfaction Surveys, Technology Surveys

# Examples of Assessment Data



## Student Learning Outcomes

- Baccalaureate/PLUS SLOs
- Program/Office SLOs

## University Outcomes

- Retention/Persistence
- Student Engagement
- Connection to NIU
- Graduation Rates

## Alumni Outcomes

- Employment Rates
- Satisfaction with NIU

## Office Outcomes

- Student Satisfaction
- Participation Rates
- Efficiency/Value

# A Robust Process of Degree Program Assessment



## Frequency

*Yearly*

*Mid-Cycle*

*8-Year Cycle*

### Annual Assessment Update

Report on Student Learning

- Summary Data
- Analysis/Interpretation
- Improvement Actions

Student Learning Focus

Office of Assessment Services (OAS) Feedback

### Assessment Plan & Status Report

Revision of Assessment Plan & Implementation Report

Student Learning Focus

University Assessment Panel (UAP) Feedback

### Program Review

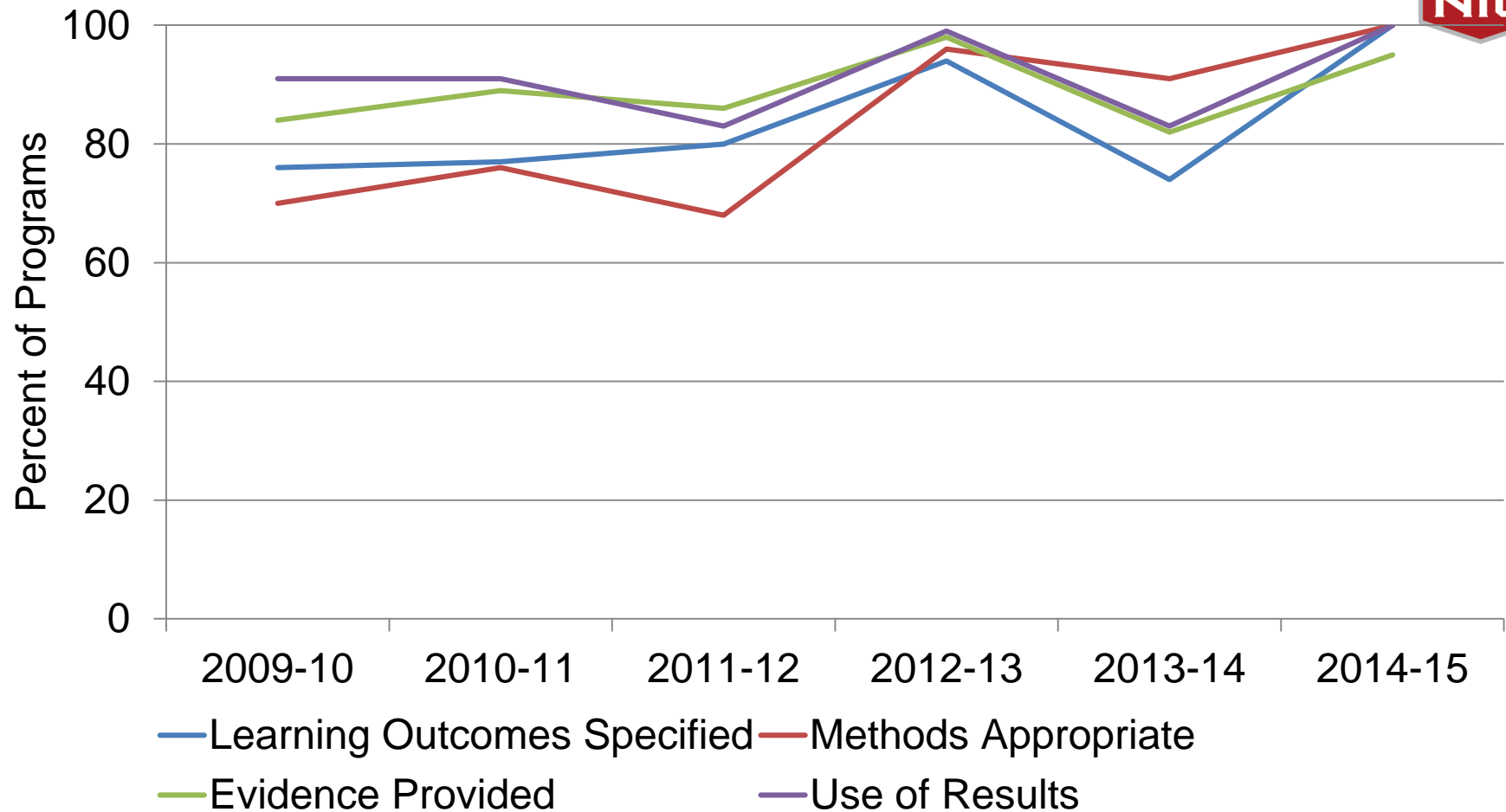
Review of Program Goals and Key Performance Indicators

Program Improvement

Academic Planning Council (APC) Feedback

# Annual Update

## *Percent of Programs Meeting Criteria*



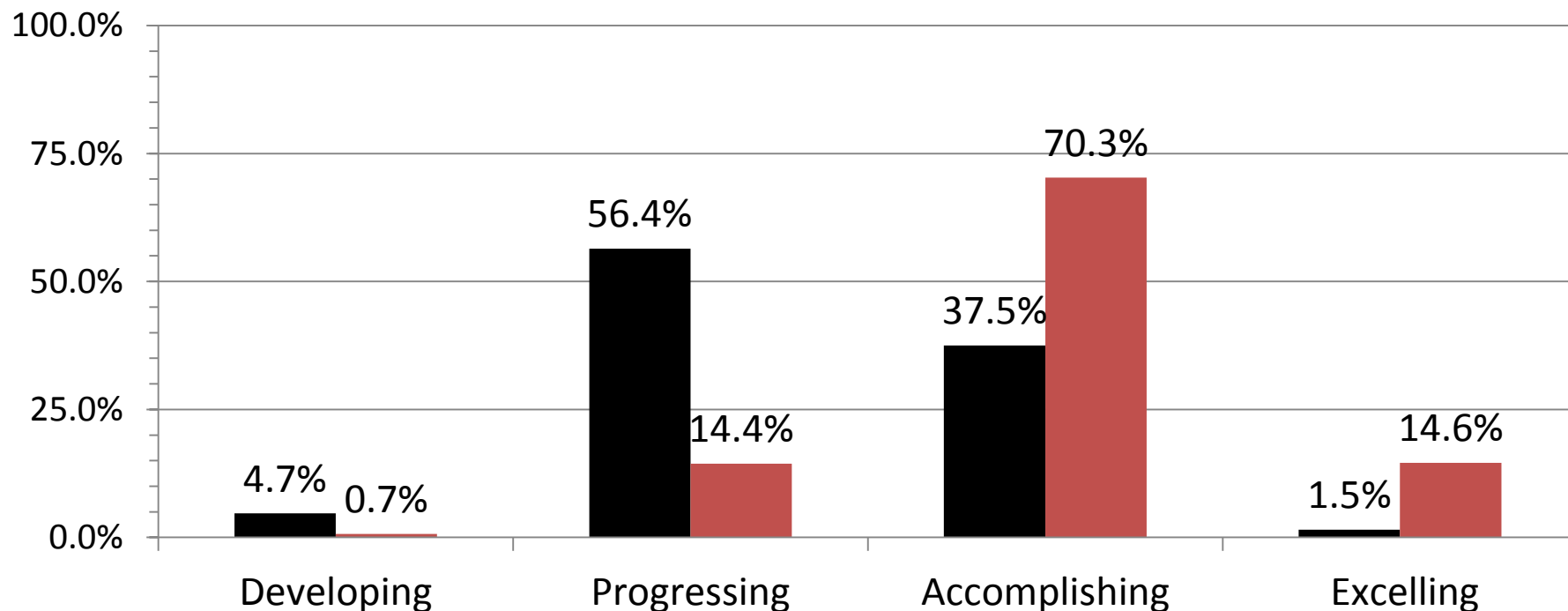
# University Writing Project

## 2014 Results



### UWP Written Communication Scores for Freshmen v. Seniors

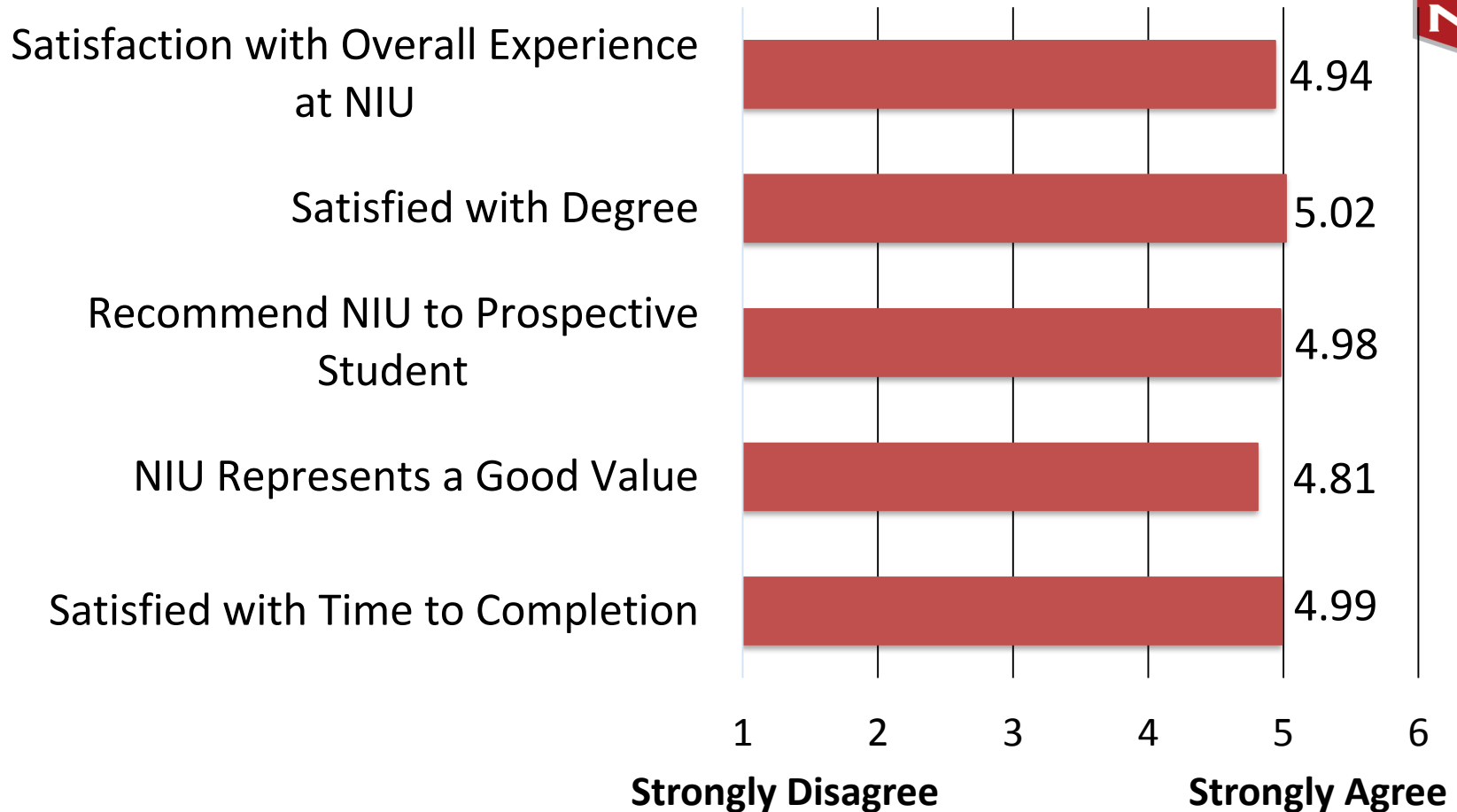
■ Freshmen (n=275) ■ Seniors (n=422)





# Annual Alumni Survey


## 2013 Graduates (N=906)



# Promoting a Culture of Assessment

## Office of Assessment Services







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**Office of Assessment Services**  
*Division of Academic Affairs*

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The Office of Assessment Services at NIU is dedicated to highlighting and assisting in the assessment of student learning outcomes across the university.




**College Portrait**  
Voluntary System of Accountability




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**Degree Outcomes**




**SLO's for Every NIU Major**

**Assessment Resources**



**NIU Assessment Scholarship**



**Latest NIU Assessment Research**

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<http://www.niu.edu/assessment/>

# Promoting a Culture of Assessment

## *NIU Assessment EXPO*



The 8th Annual  
NIU ASSESSMENT EXPO

**COLLABORATION MATTERS IN ASSESSMENT**

Friday, March 20, 2015  
8:30am - 12:00pm  
HSC Sky Room

The EXPO will showcase outstanding NIU assessment practices from 2013-2014. Each practice will be highlighted in the poster session and round table discussion. Come engage in dialogue about assessment across campus!

For more information contact  
the Office of Assessment Services  
[www.niu.edu/assessment](http://www.niu.edu/assessment)  
[assess@niu.edu](mailto:assess@niu.edu)  
(815) 753-8659




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<http://www.niu.edu/assessment/expo>

# Promoting a Culture of Assessment *Student Affairs & Enrollment Management*





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**Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management**

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
**Assessment & Enrollment Analysis**  
*Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management*

The Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management is purposeful about planning, assessment, and enrollment analysis. Guiding the Division's planning initiatives are the 2011-2015 Student Affairs Strategic Plan and 2012-2016 Enrollment Management Strategic Plan. These plans were derived through a truly engaging and collaborative process that allows these living documents to continue to guide the annual planning, assessment, and enrollment practices of all departments encompassed by Student Affairs & Enrollment Management.


Tri-Annual reports intentionally contribute to the annual report process and provide transparency for the students we serve. As a values-driven Division, Student Affairs & Enrollment Management is proud of the continual planning and thoughtful implementation of the numerous programs and services provided by our 19 departments.

Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Assessment & Enrollment Analysis also provides leadership and consultation of Division-wide planning & assessment initiatives, monitors and assesses student learning and other measurable outcomes, collects, manages, and distributes campus-wide data about students, and initiates and manages data and related research projects focused on strategic enrollment for staff and graduate students in the Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management.


These pages will be updated regularly, as additional resources are identified. Please forward any suggestions for additional resources, or feedback about information supplied here, to Brian Lance at [blance@niu.edu](mailto:blance@niu.edu).



Strategic Planning



Annual Report 14-15



Assessment Strategy Grid

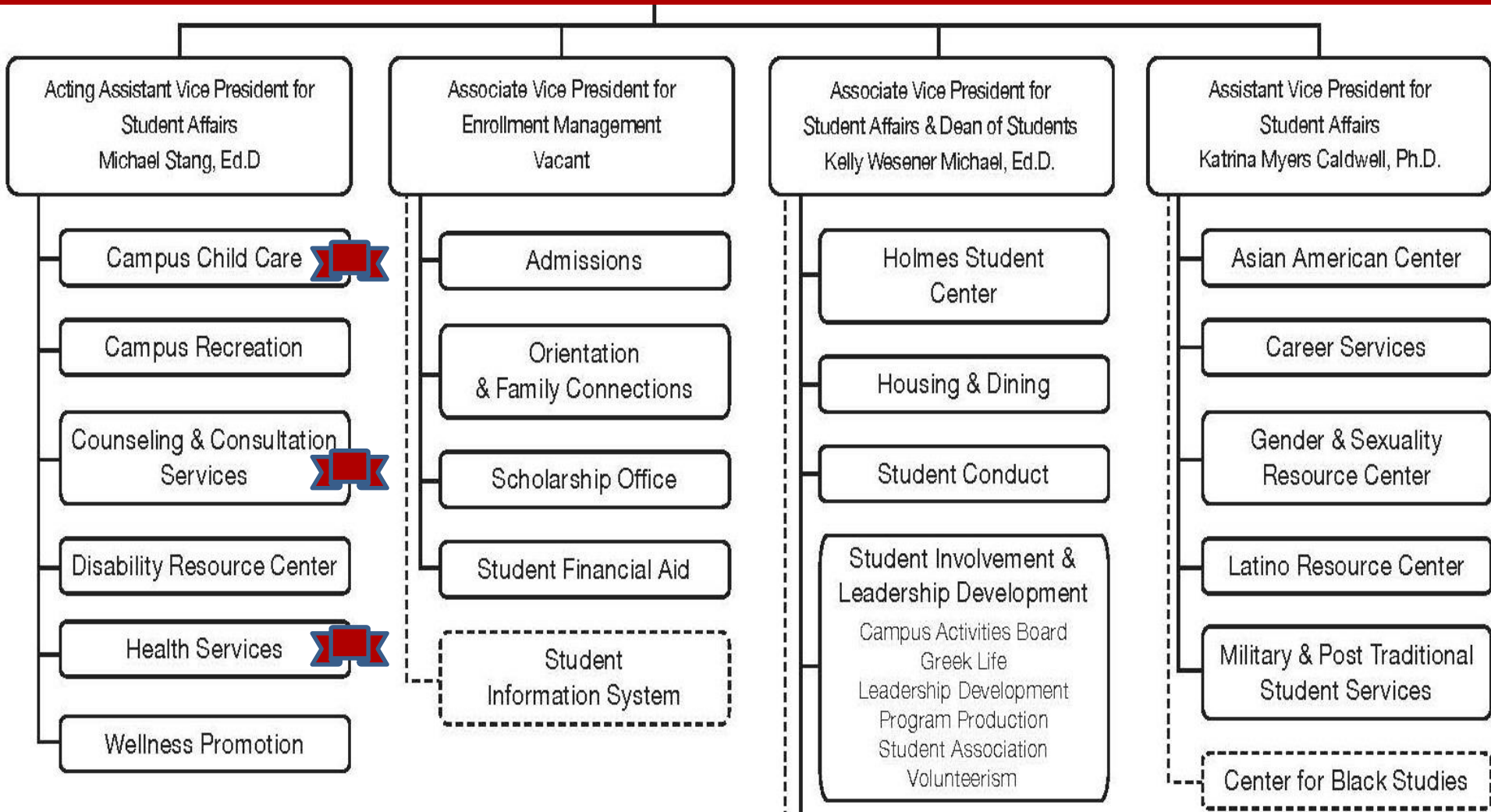
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- Strategic Planning
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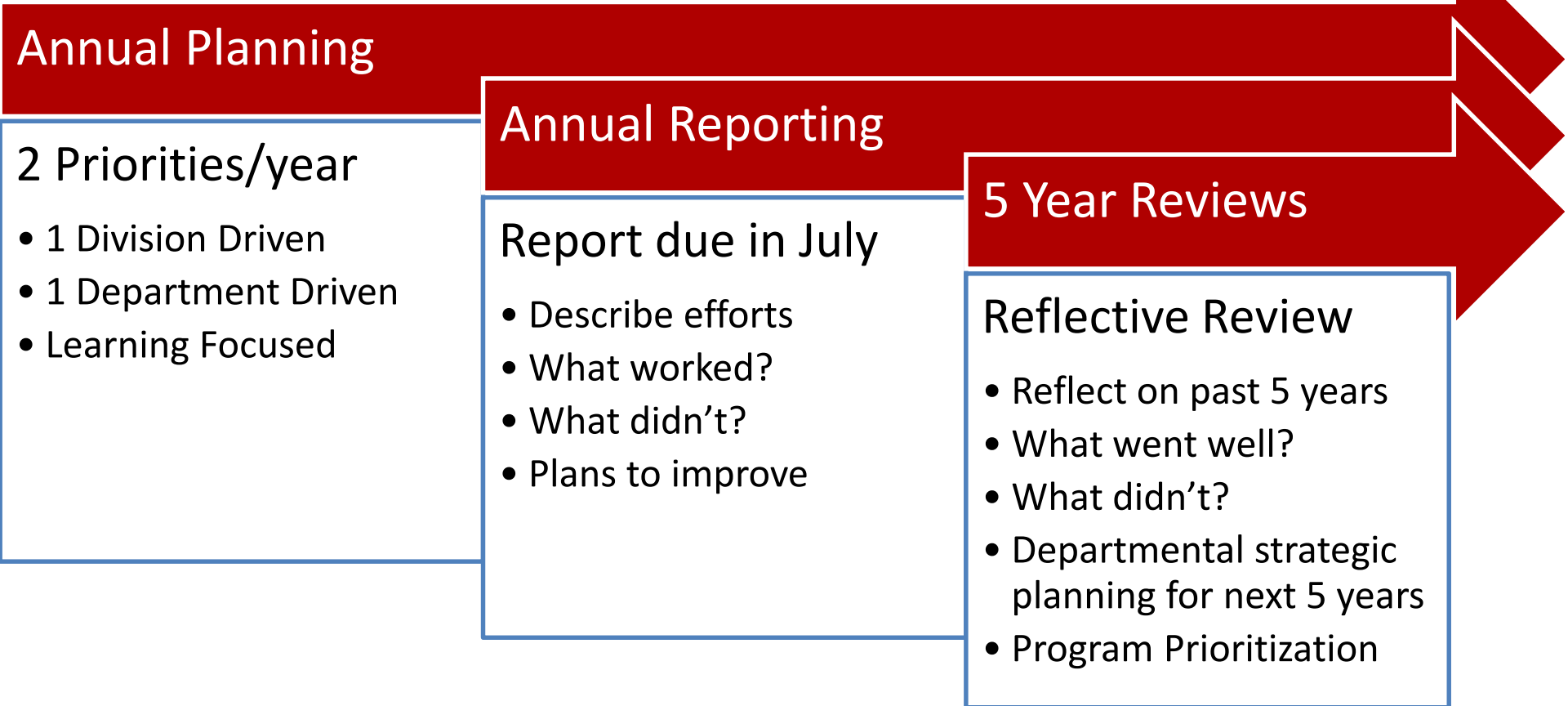
<http://www.niu.edu/stuaff/aea/index.shtml>



# Student Affairs & Enrollment Management



# Assessment Model



# Assessment Strategy Grid

Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Assessment Strategy Grid															
Collaborative Community (CC) Department	FY16 (2015-16) Annual Assessment Activities					FY17 (2016-17) Annual Assessment Activities					FY18 (2017-18) Annual Assessment Activities				
	Benchmarking Study	Internal Review	External Review	Needs & Satisfaction	5 Year Review	Benchmarking Study	Internal Review	External Review	Needs & Satisfaction	5 Year Review	Benchmarking Study	Internal Review	External Review	Needs & Satisfaction	5 Year Review
Holmes Student Center			X			X								X	
Housing & Dining			X		X	X								X	
Student Conduct				X						X	X				
Student Inv & Leadership Dev		X						X						X	
Students' Legal Assistance				X		X								X	
Admissions				X		X									X
Orientation & Family Connections			X	X		X									X
Scholarship Office					X				X			X			
Student Financial Aid		Accreditation						Accreditation			X				
Campus Child Care	X									X		Accreditation	Accreditation		
Campus Recreation	X						X						X		
Counseling & Consultation Services			Accreditation		X				X		X				
Disability Resource Center				X		X								X	
Wellness Promotion			X							X				X	
Health Services					X	X						Accreditation	Accreditation		
Asian American Center	X								X						X
Career Services	X								X			X			
Gender & Sexuality Resource Center		X						X			X				
Latino Resource Center					X		X						X		
OC&NT/Military Stud. Svcs.	X								X						X
* Departments with Accreditation processes are exempt from Internal/External Review					As of 6/8/15		Work with Assessment & Enrollment Analysis to develop an appropriate assessment project								

# Assessment Strategy Grid

## *Division of Student Affairs & Enrollment Management Assessment Strategy*

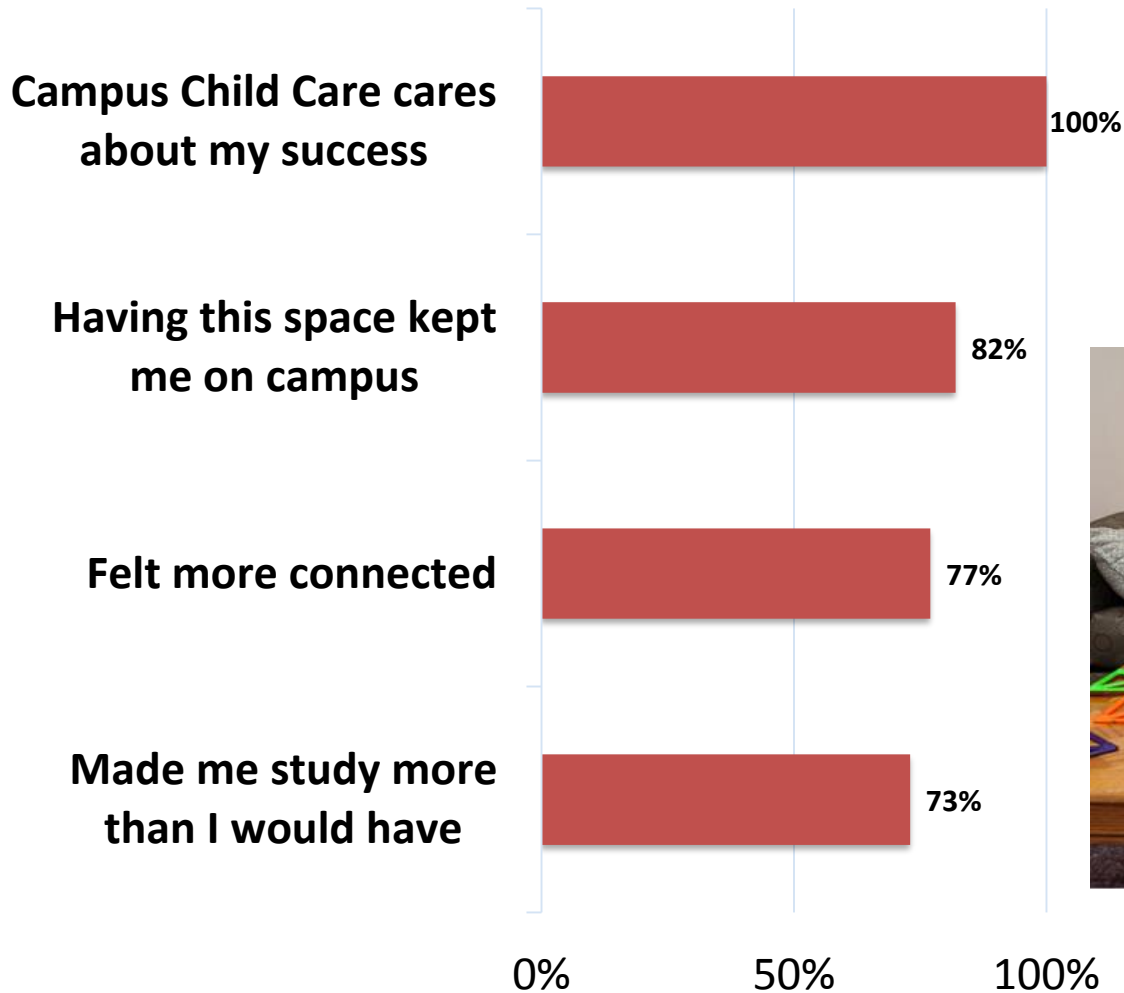
Collaborative Community (CC) Department	FY16 (2015-16)				
	Annual Assessment Activities				
	Benchmarking Study	Internal Review	External Review	Needs & Satisfaction	5 Year Review
Holmes Student Center			X		
Housing & Dining			X		X
Student Conduct				X	
Student Inv & Leadership Dev		X			
Students' Legal Assistance				X	



# Campus Child Care Example

Expected Student Learning Outcome Must select from each category (Learning Reconsidered & Bacc Goals); Reference Appendix F & G		Department Goal	
Learning Reconsidered Learning Outcomes	Cognitive Complexity	Build strong partnerships with families by offering ongoing support, communication, and education tailored to meet their individual needs.	
	Knowledge Acquisition, Integration & Application		
	Humanitarianism	<b>Explanation of Support</b> Briefly explain how the Annual Priority supports the Collaborative Community Priority and the Department Goal. CCC intends to initiate a program that is focused on the NIU student experience for students who are connected with Campus Child Care. The intent is to help build their connection with CCC and enhance our ability to support them in the achievement of their goals at NIU.	
	Civic Engagement		
	Inter/Intrapersonal Competence		
	Practical Competence		
Bacc Goals	x Persistence & Academic Achievement		
	Creativity		
	x Communication		
Critical Thinking			
Action Steps & Timeline		Target/Outcome/ Objective	Method(s) (Select from Dropdown)
1. In an effort to coordinate with our Collaborative Community's priority to create a caring community for students, CCC is proposing to repurpose our school-age classroom, transforming it into a study and relaxation space for CCC student workers and parents. A committee of CCC staff and parents, along with a representative from the Office of Student Academic Success will be formed to take on this task. (June - Aug. 2014)		Target 1: At least 50% of students who use the space at least twice a month will agree that using the space made them more likely to study than they otherwise would have.	Survey/Questionnaire
			(Select from dropdown; if needed)
			(Select from dropdown; if needed)
2. Committee members will name, furnish and decorate the repurposed room to meet the needs of the students. Included will be a couch, comfortable chairs, carpeting, work tables, chairs, etc. Items already available in this room include a bathroom, full size refrigerator, microwave, storage space, and Wi-Fi. (Aug. 2014)		Target 2: At least 75% of students who use the space at least once during a semester will agree with the statement that CCC cares about their success as a student.	Other Method (Please specify):
			Survey/Questionnaire
			(Select from dropdown; if needed)
3. CCC staff will promote the use of this space in a variety of ways to student workers and parents (via email, newsletter articles, website, signage, 'to-go' snacks, etc.). Students will be asked to sign in and out so the utilization of this space can be			(Select from dropdown; if needed)
			Other Method (Please specify):

# Campus Child Care FY15 Survey Results (N=23)



# Summary



- NIU has robust assessment systems
  - Degree Programs
  - Academic Support Units
  - Student Affairs & Enrollment Management
- NIU is increasingly recognized for assessment
- Value-Added Assessment Projects
  - Supporting “data-driven” decision making



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**Comments/Questions?**