2016-2017 University Writing Project

Accreditation, Assessment, and Evaluation (AAE) (formerly the Office of Assessment Services) invites faculty from across the campus to participate in the 2016-2017 University Writing Project.

The University Writing Project (UWP) is a course-embedded assessment of the writing performance of NIU junior and senior-level undergraduate students. The purpose of the UWP is to provide department and university-level assessment data on student writing that can be used for ongoing course and program assessment and will contribute to the assessment of general education at NIU. It also provides faculty members, departments, and colleges the opportunity to receive valuable feedback on the writing abilities of their students.

AAE invites faculty from across the campus to participate this year by submitting completed course assignments to the AAE. These assignments will be reviewed by faculty and staff from the Department of English, using a rubric that is modeled after the Written Communication and Critical Thinking AAC&U VALUE Rubrics. Scores are then submitted to AAE, who then creates final reports for colleges and instructors in aggregate format.

College reports can be found at http://niu.edu/assessment/projects/UWP/index.shtml.

Faculty can participate by:

1. Selecting one assignment from a 300/400 level course that you find appropriate to be evaluated by the attached rubric. Student assignments MUST be a minimum of three pages of text. (We recommend 3-10 pages).

2. Informing students that course assignments will be submitted to AAE for institutional, college, and program level assessment. Individual student results will remain confidential and only be shared in aggregate form.

3. Sending the course name, semester, section #, and writing assignment instructions to the AAE (ex. ENGL 104, Spring 2015, section 0001). (e-mail to tgipson1@niu.edu)

4. Sending the student writing samples to AAE no later than Monday, May 1, 2017. (Ideally by April 15th). Papers will be accepted in the following ways:
   a. E-mail papers to tgipson1@niu.edu
   b. Allow AAE access to your class in Blackboard so we can download papers.
   c. Provide clean hard copies and send through interoffice mail to Adams Hall, B20.

Please contact Tawanda Gipson, Senior Research Associate, with any questions at (815) 753-1197 or via e-mail at tgipson1@niu.edu.