

VOL. 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 30, 2014

Assessment Newsletter

Assessment Matters
@ NLC

The Assessment Newsletter is a communication tool used to provide the NLC community with practical, helpful, and timely assessment news, ideas, and resources. The publication is designed to help transition the college from theory to practical applications of assessment.



NLC employees participate in Assessment Training and Improvement Sessions with Consultant Dr. Nassim Ebrahimi - (May 9-14, 2014).

In this ISSUE

Understanding Assessment (p 2)

Calendar of Upcoming
Assessment Events (p 2)

Assessment in Action (p 3)

Data-Sharing (p 4)

General Education Competencies

Critical Thinking Skills

Communication Skills

Empirical and Quantitative Skills

Teamwork

Personal Responsibility

Social Responsibility

Content in this publication is generated from the Assessment Committee and Institutional Research, and is edited by the Public Relations Office

SAVE THE DATE

Upcoming Assessment Events:

Assessment Week @NLC (June 23-26)

Best Practices Make Perfect -
Adjunct Academy (August 16)

Understanding Assessment

What is Assessment? It is the systematic collection, review and use of information about educational programs undertaken for the purpose of improving student learning and development (*Marchese, 1987; Palomba & Banta 1999*).

A Glossy of Terms

Direct Assessment - using samples of student work produced in class and programs to assess student learning.

Formative Assessment - feedback that can be used in different stages of a student's academic path to improve student learning.

Indirect Assessment - assessing student learning using means other than actual samples of student work produced in class or programs. Deducing student learning through students' perception of their own learning. Examples include surveys, focus groups, etc.

Summative Assessment - measuring the level or proficiency of a student's success at the end of an instructional unit by comparison to a standard.



The discussion focused on the assessment of academic programs and taking assessment from theory into practice.

Assessment discussion with Vice Provost at UT Austin, Neal Armstrong - (May 27, 2014).



A committee

Program and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment **is formed**

Charge Statement

The Northeast Lakeview College (NLC) Program and Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (Assessment Committee) is committed to building and maintaining a culture of learning in which students, faculty, and staff share a common **understanding of the meaning, purpose, and utility of assessment issues to support the college community.**

The committee consists of all constituent groups, including faculty, staff, administration, and a student.

Contact Neil McCrary for details on the assessment committee.

Assessment in Action

During the four days the consultant, Dr. Nassim Ebrahimi, was on the campus of NLC, a total of 384 employees (duplicated) attended the various training events. There were two all-college sessions and nine focused workshop sessions that were designed to target the discussion and activities to specific groups. An overview of the topics discussed in the focused sessions included the types of assessment instruments (direct and indirect), assessment type (formative and summative), assessment data collection methods, as well as a collective summary from the participants of the many different vehicles with which learning is assessed and collected at the college.

Positive observations about NLC's current assessment practices made by the consultant include:

- NLC already collects a large amount of data
- The faculty and staff are very motivated and willing to move toward creating a culture of assessment
- Creating a webpage on assessment and an assessment committee is a step in the right direction

NLC next steps as a result of the 4-days with the consultant include:

Mission Statement

Northeast Lakeview College is a public community college within the system of Alamo Colleges, established in partnership with its communities, that is focused on student success through the offering of Associate degrees and continuing education, promoting engagement in civic activities and organizations, and encouraging participation in cultural and enrichment programs.

- creating of a central location to house assessment artifacts and documents
- refining the responsibilities of the college assessment committee
- developing a web presence for showcasing and providing information about NLC assessment activities and processes
- Increasing collaboration between academics, student services, and college services and work to align learning outcomes with current and future student activities and club events.
- Creating curriculum maps that align new core course offerings to the program learning outcomes.
- Collecting artifacts from students and assessing those artifacts as measurements (against scoring rubrics) about how the student learning is related to the outcomes of the programs.
- Increasing the communications between departments and units across the college to share assessment information and data.

More information on each of the focused sessions can be viewed in greater detail in the daily summaries.

Contact Dr. Gary Ergish, Vice President for Academic Success.

Data-Sharing

LibQUAL+ Survey is an indirect measure of assessment and supports SACS-COC Standards - C.R. 2.9; C.S. 3.3.1.3; C.S. 3.8.1-3 as well as measures program effectiveness and highlights areas for improvement.

The survey is a gap analysis that measures the users' minimum, desired, and perceived level of service in three broad areas: Affect of Service, Information Control, and Library as Place. Users rate specific areas on a scale from 1 to 9 (9 is the highest measure). The NLC Library did not receive anything below a 7 in aggregate for all areas by all user types and was above the National Norm.

Dimension	Min Mean	Des Mean	Per Mean	National Norm
Affect of Service	6.86	7.85	7.55	7.439
Information Control	6.92	7.95	7.55	7.084
Library as Place	6.99	8.05	7.74	7.057
Overall	6.91	7.94	7.60	

A full overview the LibQual survey can be found at this [link](#).