

## **HLC Assessment Academy Report 2.0**

### **September 7, 2018**

*What projects have you been following on the Collaboration Network? What have you learned from the experiences of other schools that is useful to your project?*

We have not fully utilized this feature of the academy at this point. Within this past year we have capitalized upon the connections we have made through the academy and various HLC events as we prepared for an HLC focused visit over assessment and institutional effectiveness that occurred this past spring. Thus, our focus has been upon the journey of attempting to complete many tasks within a short timeframe. Although we have the looming task of completing a monitoring report, we anticipate taking full advantage of the Collaboration Network during this second year of the academy to strengthen the assessment processes associated with the report. One highly beneficial and utilized component has been the insight of our HLC mentor who has provided guidance throughout the year, the most valuable of which relates to establishing assessment processes and components that are meaningful to us as an institution.

*In 4-6 sentences, how has your project developed and changed since the Roundtable? Identify and explain any specific changes to your project scope or design.*

As stated in the mentor and scholar comments, we attempted to cover a lot of ground in a short period of time during our first year in the academy. Basically, we had no choice but to try to achieve lofty, ambitious projects. Comments from the recent focused visit recommend curriculum mapping to increase awareness of assessment and to ensure transparency. Therefore we plan to incorporate stronger, more complete curriculum mapping, as well as non-academic and co-curricular assessment models to our institutional assessment practices.

*How did you incorporate the feedback that you received on your previous posting?*

After reading the comments, we visited with our mentor to further explain our reasoning behind program level assessment. Unfortunately we are in the process of revising course level assessment components as we further develop our comprehensive, systematic assessment processes. While we are advancing beyond the course level, the integrated nature of assessment means that there are fundamental course level assessment components that need to be strengthened. In many ways, we wish that we had the opportunity to start anew with program outcomes, but the truth is that many years of collecting course data within an established format created an obstacle that requires innovative planning and strategies to make the assessment process more seamless and incorporated.

*Did you have any challenges regarding your project? How did you address them?*

The timeframe regarding the focused visit and the culture associated with assessment were challenges. We still face those as we work toward meeting the requirements for the upcoming monitoring report. Education of our stakeholders is the key, which is why we joined the academy in the first place. Continuous improvement is our newly adopted philosophy, and we are making great efforts to impart that attitude across the institution. The processes and framework that we

are creating extend beyond simply meeting requirements. The information gained from assessment allows us to make strategic, data-driven decisions for the success of our institution and most importantly for the overall success of our students. Assessment is a word that needs to be redefined and then reclaimed as a word of empowerment.

*What are the plans for the next six months? How will this work advance your project?*

Co-curricular assessment and non-academic assessment are in the process of being implemented this fall. We are defining our co-curricular activities and deciding upon the best method of assessment for that component. We have identified our non-academic administrative and student service units, and we are utilizing a pilot group that was developed during the summer to assist with the implementation across the institution. Concerning academic assessment, curriculum mapping is our next major step. We will continue to work on improving academic components in order to obtain the best data possible that will aid in closing the loop. This work will not only advance our project, but also will aid in demonstrating our progress with HLC.