

ASSESSMENT MATTERS

A newsletter of the University Assessment Steering Committee to disseminate information on tools, education & training, and best practices for assessment at WMU.

December 2007-Issue #2

Welcome to the second installment of Assessment Matters! We hope to keep the WMU community informed about activities relating to assessment through this e-mail newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact: Karen Stokes at karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

University Assessment Program Survey:

The University Assessment Steering Committee is evaluating the University Assessment Program in an attempt to determine the understanding and acceptance of assessment throughout the University community. The results of this evaluation will be used to guide future actions of the University Assessment Steering Committee. In January we will be disseminating a survey and we would encourage you to please take a moment to complete it. Please be on the look-out for this important survey. Thanks in advance. For questions about the survey, please contact Pat Benton at: patrick.benton@wmich.edu

PATHS: (Panels on Assessment: Training, Help, & Support)

Topic: Beyond Accountability: Using Assessment to Promote Student Learning

This session will focus on the integration of assessment activities in the classroom. Formative assessments, student self-assessment, and substantive feedback are features of "Assessment for Learning," and have been shown to improve student learning and increase the level of student engagement in the learning process. This session will be held on January 30, 2008 from 9 to 11 AM in the Brown and Gold Room of the Bernhard Center, room 242. Please invite anyone to attend that may have an interest in this topic. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu

WMU Fall 2007 Portfolio Contest:

Winners of the WMU Fall 2007 Portfolio Contest have been chosen. There were 4 prizes of \$250 each and one honorable mention portfolio received a \$50 prize. There were many excellent portfolios submitted into the contest and it was difficult for the judges to choose the winning portfolios. To see a list of the winner's names and to view their portfolios, please go to the following website:

<http://www.wmich.edu/cepa/WMU%20Portfolio%20Contest.php>

If you have any questions concerning the contest, please contact Karen Stokes at:
karen.stokes@wmich.edu

Assessment Excellence Awards:

Coming soon, look for an announcement regarding Assessment Excellence Awards which will provide an opportunity to show individual and unit level accomplishment in assessment of student learning.

TracDat Update:

The new version of the assessment tool TracDat has been installed at WMU. If you previously had an account in TracDat, you can sign in with the same username and password you used before. This new version of TracDat brings with it many great new features but you will also find that these enhancements did not change the overall goal of the software which was to provide you with a place to organize and keep an accurate historical picture of your assessment plan and the findings from your assessment methods. There is a new URL for TracDat version 4 and you can sign in by going to the following web address: <https://tracdatp.cc.wmich.edu:8443/tracdat/> If you have any questions or if you would like to set up an account, please contact Karen Stokes at: karen.stokes@wmich.edu.

Assessment Tip:

Assessment is a waste of time---unless the results are used for improvement. The overall purpose of university assessment is to improve the programs offered by the university. High quality programs require consistent, high quality assessment to assure that students continue to achieve program outcomes.

LINKS:

University Assessment www.wmich.edu/poapa/uac
Assessment Portfolio [www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU Assessment](http://www.iwebfolio.com/public/WMU%20Assessment)
Assessment Toolbox www.wmich.edu/poapa/assessment/toolbox/Page1