

## **NSU ASSESSMENT ACADEMY Timeline & Work Summary**

### **January 2010**

NSU personnel complete self-evaluation in preparation for the HLC Assessment Conference  
**(Attachment 1)**

Information from an internal study regarding program objectives and assessments collated to inform work at February 2010 HLC Assessment Conference **(Attachment 2)**

### **February 2010**

NSU Contingent to HLC Assessment Conference includes representation from key areas **(Attachment 3):**

- Dr. Janet Bahr, Associate VP for Academic Affairs, HLC Tri-Chair
- Dr. Thomas Jackson, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs & Graduate Dean, HLC Tri-Chair
- Dr. Kathy Reese, HLC Tri-Chair
- Dr. Laura Boren, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Mark Giese, Director of Office of Assessment and Institutional Research
- Dr. Pamela Fly, Chair of NSU Assessment Committee
- Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford, Academic Affairs Fellow

Team outlines action plan that includes identifying current processes, establishing a Student Learning Coordinator for each college to assist faculty with program assessment needs, identifying gaps in current measures and data collection, analysis, and distribution processes, and institutional work to foster a culture of assessment **(Attachment 4)**.

### **March / April 2010**

NSU Assessment Team meets to discuss implementation of ideas generated during February conference with a focus on

- Changing the NSU assessment culture,
- Collecting benchmark information regarding program outcomes and assessments and
- Adding support for program faculty.

College assessment meetings, "From Assessment to Student Learning" held. **(Attachment 5 Agenda / Notes)**

- Identify needs and impediments to effective assessment practices.
- Establish ground work for future efforts within the colleges related to inventory of objectives and assessment measures.
- Facilitated by the Chair of the NSU Assessment Committee
- Attended by the Provost and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

NSU Assessment Committee meeting (**See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes**)

- Discuss results of the Assessment Audit
  - need for professional development,
  - a common assessment vocabulary across the institution,
  - standardized syllabi to focus on student outcomes,
  - desire to share more assessment data through opening meetings and the website.
- HLC assessment update and sharing of responses from college meetings.
- Received request from the NSU General Education Committee regarding assessment instruments for the new general education system. This General Education assessment project will later become part of NSU's Assessment Academy project.

Provost names Student Learning Coordinators for each college, an idea originating from the HLC Assessment Conference. These faculty receive release time to support assessment efforts in their colleges. They are also added to the institutional Assessment Committee.

**May 2010**

NSU files formal application to HLC Assessment Academy (**Attachment 6**)

**August 2010**

Student Learning Coordinators receive course release time to support work with faculty related to assessment processes.

**October 2010**

NSU Assessment Academy Team formed and includes members of the original HLC Assessment contingent as well as a college student learning coordinator representative. The group includes

- Dr. Thomas Jackson, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs & Graduate Dean, HLC Tri-Chair
- Dr. Laura Boren, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Dr. Mark Giese, Director of Office of Assessment and Institutional Research
- Dr. Pamela Fly, Chair of NSU Assessment Committee
- Dr. Kevin David, COE Student Learning Coordinator

**November 2010**

NSU Assessment Committee meeting (**See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes**)

- Discussion of Student Learning Coordinator roles and responsibilities
- Dr. Jackson introduces the Assessment Academy and seeks input regarding potential projects.

- Votes to submit name change to *Student Learning and Assessment* to President's cabinet to highlight the evolution in campus culture related to assessment.

Assessment Academy team meets by conference call to plan for effective roundtable experience.

Assessment Academy team attends the HLC Assessment Roundtable in Lisle, IL

- Project storyboard developed outlining institutional needs, project outcomes, project implementation design & processes. **(Attachment 7)**
- *NSU General Education and Beyond* outlines the team's proposal **(Attachment 8)**

### **December 2010**

NSU Student Learning & Assessment Committee meeting **(See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes)**

- Updates from Student Learning Coordinators regarding inventory of program outcomes & assessments
- Discussion of faculty professional development needs related to assessment.
- Update of HLC Assessment Academy and discussion of General Education assessment project.

### **January 2011**

Members of the Assessment Academy team (Drs. Jackson & David) present project to President's Cabinet **(Attachment 9)**

### **February 2011**

Initial meetings of the Red Balloon Committee meeting

- Charge of **"The red balloon project at NSU will focus on identifying how NSU is responding to and will respond to the changing landscape in higher education in living its mission, vision, and core values."**
- Initiatives include a campus discussion about measurable and meaningful student learning / degree outcomes including general education.

### **March / April 2011**

Assessment Academy Project, NSU General Education & Beyond uploaded to website 03/01/11

NSU Student Learning & Assessment Committee meeting

**(See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes)**

- Update by Student Learning Coordinators to collect degree outcomes / assessments
- Assessment professional development discussion for 2011-12 year

- Assessment Academy HLC Assessment Academy update – Dr. Jackson  
The Assessment Academy team has posted and published two tasks that will be the focus:
  - a. Assess new General Education curriculum
    - 1 - compare and contrast old Gen Ed with new Gen Ed;
    - 2 - pre-post test the new curriculum components that respond to the seven (7) objectives of the new Gen Ed curriculum; and
    - 3 - look at the value-added nature of the Capstone course.
  - b. The second project looks at the construct validity of NSU's Mission, Core Values, and Alumni preparation/success.

Members may review NSU's HLC Assessment Academy website. From the NSU homepage, click on HLC, then go to the Resource Room, and the Assessment Academy Project will be there. <http://hlc.nsuok.edu/ResourceRoom/AssessmentAcademy.aspx>

After discussion of the synergy among the various NSU units and committees (Student Learning & Assessment, HLC Assessment Academy, Office of Institutional Research, and the Center for Teaching and Learning), Dr. Bahr created a diagram to illustrate the relationship among these areas.

#### **April / May 2011**

Jackson, T., Boren, L. & Giese, M., (2011). **NSU Assessment & Beyond**. Presented at the HLC Annual Conference.

Bahr, J., Boren, L., Jackson, T. & Tadlock, M. (2011). **A Comprehensive Campus Effort to Engage and Retain**. Presented at the HLC Annual Conference.

General Education Capstone course design discussions begin.

- Hiring of GE Capstone Coordinator
- Mechanism for ensuring assessment
- Encourage synthesis of all GE components

#### **July 2011**

GE Capstone Coordinator hired to plan for Spring 2012 implementation of GE Capstone

#### **September 2011**

Red Balloon Committee meets (**See Committee Blackboard Site - Meeting notes**)

- Consider Lumina Foundation Degree Qualifications Profile as basis for outcomes draft
- Use Blackboard wiki to review and discuss

Assessment Academy Project, *NSU General Education & Beyond* update to website 09/19/11

## October 2011

Red Balloon Committee meets **(See Committee Blackboard Site - Meeting notes)**

- Restructured the order of the broad outcomes to reflect the natural learning progression at NSU
- Agreed to use Lumina language for the specific objectives within each outcome with three minor exceptions.

## November 2011

Red Balloon Committee meeting **(See Committee Blackboard Site - Meeting notes)**

- GE Coordinator discussed alignment of Lumina outcomes with NSU GE Outcomes
- Assessment Academy efforts discussed in light of GE outcome assessment discussion

NSU Student Learning & Assessment Committee meeting

**(See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes)**

- HLC Assessment Academy Update
- Importance of Student Learning Coordinator work
- HLC visit expectations
- Red Balloon Project Assessment of broad goals 3 & 4
  - Student Learning Coordinators work with programs to determine alignment of Lumina broad goals with specific program outcomes
  - Identify outcomes that already have data – what types of assignments, who collects the data?

HLC Assessment Academy presented to Academic Council

## December 2011

General Education Committee meeting **(See Attachment 10)**

- Committee meets to discuss curricular additions to General Education
- Archival data for General Education (7 years of Riverside College base) collated

## January 2012

Assessment Academy Project, *NSU General Education & Beyond* mentor feedback posted to website 01/20/12

Red Balloon Committee meeting **(See Committee Blackboard Site - Meeting notes)**

- Focus on defining and developing assessment strategies for degree outcomes
  - An assessment test
  - An e-portfolio process
  - Incorporating our existing assessment tools reported in the Institutional Assessment
- Assessment Academy efforts discussed in light of GE outcomes and existing assessments

HLC Assessment Academy presented to Chairs Council

General Education Committee meeting (**See Attachment 11**)

- Committee meets to discuss curricular additions to General Education

### **February 2012**

NSU Student Learning & Assessment Committee meeting

(**See Committee Blackboard Site Agenda – Minutes**)

- Program Outcomes & Assessments: Progress Update
- Assigned New Task – Red Balloon Project mapping program outcomes & Outcome #3 Specialized Knowledge

HLC Assessment Academy presented to Staff Council

Red Balloon Committee meeting (**See Committee Blackboard Site - Meeting notes**)

- Heard overview of electronic portfolios as assessment tool
- Requested Student Learning and Assessment committee look at outcomes # 3 & 4
  - Programs to determine courses that are appropriate to measure the outcome.
  - Identify current assessment tools to measure the outcome.
  - If not, can the course or the assessment tools be redesigned to include the outcome.
- Requested Gen Ed Curriculum committee look at outcomes #1 & 2
  - Determine courses that are appropriate to measure the general education curriculum in which the outcomes are capable of being measured
  - Determine the current assessment tool for that outcome (or if none exists, if an assessment tool could be designed).

Assessment Academy Team/ General Education Assessment

- Discussed implementation logistics of ETS Proficiency Profile in GE Capstone (March – April).

General Education Committee meeting (**See Attachment 12**)

- Presentation of assessment strategies for General Education

### **March 2012**

Final Evaluation tool designated, augmented and passed as exempt by NSU's IRB (ETS Proficiency Profile, Short Form with nine Capstone and satisfaction-related items).

HLC Assessment Academy presented to NSU Faculty Council.

### **April 20102**

First Project data collection begins.