

*The Sinclair Community College Newsletter
designed to heighten the understanding of the integrated relationship
between curriculum, general education, and assessment
Spring 2005*

Notes from the VPI Office

Sinclair is in the business of building bridges. We started 118 years ago when David Sinclair built the first bridges between unemployed Dayton residents and arithmetic, freehand, and mechanical drawing classes in a one-room classroom upstairs in the YMCA. Today, faculty are still building bridges every day in thousands of ways when they teach a much larger and dynamic curriculum to many more students. The principle is the same—finding a need and building a bridge to meet it.

One of the bridges we have recently built in Instruction is a more intentional and meaningful integration of curriculum, general education, and assessment. Our **curriculum** is a large, dynamic array of courses and modules which build certificates and degree programs. Our **general education** is what we want all of our students to know and demonstrate—computer literacy, critical thinking/problem solving, information literacy, oral communication, values/citizenship/community, and written communication. Our **assessment** is the analysis and use of data to help us determine if we have made a difference in student learning.

When we put it all together—curriculum, general education, and assessment—we

have created a collective responsibility for all of us to assume as we work daily to improve and expand student learning. Some bridges will need repair; some bridges will need to be torn down; and other bridges will need to be built. Finding a need and building a bridge to meet it.

The Learning Liaisons

One group of bridge builders is the Learning Liaisons. These faculty members, one from each of the academic divisions, have served this past academic year as assessment advocates as a way of institutionalizing assessment and the documentation of direct measures of student learning.

In general, the charge of the Learning Liaisons is threefold: to provide a consistent message and understanding of assessment across disciplines in a coordinated, proactive manner; to help provide consistent understanding, practice, dissemination, and collection of assessment and general education information across the divisions; and, in turn, to provide the necessary documentation of assessment and general education activity within the institution itself in a systematic, consistent, and meaningful

way, reinforcing the operational aspects of the Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycle of continuous process improvement.

This year's Learning Liaisons served as members of the College's AQIP team on assessment in addition to serving as resources within the divisions in a number of ways. To date, they have conducted interviews with all chairs to determine the current state of assessment within the departments and programs; have helped chairs "feed" the curriculum management tool to address course outcomes, assessment methods, performance criteria, and pertinent general education competency areas and measurable outcomes; and have developed information instruments to help clarify assessment and its benefit to students, faculty, and administration.

Sue Merrell (Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Continuous Improvement), Teresa Prosser (Chair of Assessment Committee), and Lori Zakel (Chair of General Education Committee) wish to thank the following individuals for their commitment and dedication in serving as Learning Liaisons this first year:

**Gloria Goldman: Allied Health
512-2848**

Gloria Goldman is currently chair of the Nursing Department. Her interest in assessment originates with making sure that nursing students meet high professional standards of practice. She became interested in program and college accreditation and wrote her doctoral dissertation on authentic assessment of student learning. Gloria serves on a number of boards, including Center for Healthy Communities Advisory Board, Oakwood Board of Health, Mary Scott Nursing Center Board of Trustees, Visiting Nurses Association Advisory Board, Nursing Institute of South Central Ohio Advisory Board, Wright State University College of Nursing and Health Advisory Board, and Sinclair Foundation Board. She holds a BSN from Louisiana State University, an MEd from Loyola University, New Orleans, an MS from Wright State

University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Dayton in addition to certification in Professional Leadership by the International Community College Chair Academy.

**Ned Young: Business
512-3142**

Ned D. Young is completing his twelfth year at Sinclair having served as a Management faculty member for six years and the Chairperson of the Management and Marketing departments for an additional six years. Assessment has long been an interest of Ned's having been certified as an NCA examiner for AQIP and PEAQ and serving on many Sinclair committees including Faculty Senate, Honors Committee, NCA AQIP and self study committees, Sinclair Quality Council, and, for the last three years, acted as faculty chair of the Faculty Issues Team. He holds a BS in Computer Science and an MBA in Management from Wright State University as well as a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Dayton. Ned holds membership in the American Education Research Association and the Mid Western Educational Research Association and was awarded, in 2002, with the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Teaching Excellence Award and the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) Award for Teaching Excellence.

**Steve Wendel: Engineering
512-2841**

Steve Wendel is a professor in the Industrial Design and Graphic Technology Department. He currently serves as the chair for the EIT Curriculum & Assessment Committee and is also active in several professional societies including the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He also serves as an evaluator, team chair and commissioner for the Technology Accreditation Commission (TAC) of the Accreditation

Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Steve holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Dayton.

**Mary Connolly: Extended Learning
512-2362**

Mary Connolly is a professor of early childhood education. She has an extensive background in multiple aspects of early childhood education and teacher education with a strong emphasis in curriculum planning, assessment and language/literacy development. A recipient of the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award and the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education Teaching Award, Mary has presented at local, state, national and international conferences on a variety of topics related to teaching and learning. She holds a B.S.Ed. from Ohio University (Comprehensive Social Studies), an M.S.Ed. from Wright State University (Early Childhood Education), and a Ph.D. from The Ohio State University (Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development).

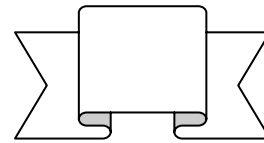
**Lori Zakel: Fine/Performing Arts
512-2812**

Lori Zakel is a professor in and chair of the Communication Arts Department. Currently the Chair of the General Education Committee (and a member of the Assessment Committee since 1991), Lori led the team that developed the first set of General Education measurable outcomes and was the college's Self-study Coordinator for the 1997 NCA re-accreditation process. A recipient of both the NISOD Excellence in Teaching Award and the Community College Educator Award from the National Communication Association, Lori has presented at regional and national conferences on a variety of topics related to assessment, general education, and the communication discipline. She holds an Associate's of Arts degree in Liberal Arts from Sinclair; bachelor's and master's degrees in communication from the

University of Wyoming and Antioch University, respectively; and Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Dayton.

**Jane Myong: Liberal Arts & Sciences
512-3058**

Jane Myong is a professor in the Chemistry Department. She is the author of numerous published articles, holder of several grants and awards, and is most recently a member of the Assessment Committee. Jane holds a Bachelor's of Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's of Science and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She has also been recognized for her post-doc research at Rensselaer Poly Tech Institute in New York and industrial research at Rockwell Int'l in California.



Next Issue: In the Fall Quarter 2005 issue, the new integrated website for curriculum, assessment, and gen ed will be highlighted! This new site will contain much of the information from the current and separate sites (links are on the next page under ***Additional Resources***) but will include more practical information, resources, and references for faculty use. Stay tuned!

Additional Resources

Sinclair's websites

CMT: <http://cmt.sinclair.edu/security/login.cfm>

*click on guest login at bottom on page

AQIP: <http://www.sinclair.edu/about/aqip/index.cfm>

Assessment: <http://www.sinclair.edu/about/assessment/intro/index.cfm>

* includes a link to a Dictionary of Assessment Terms

General Education: <http://www.sinclair.edu/about/gened/index.cfm>

Contacts

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