

Academic Chairpersons Conference Proposal 2018

Presentation Title:

Trends in Assessment: Implications and Opportunities for Department Chairs

Presenter Information:

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Abstract:

Learn about trends in assessment from the executive editor of *Assessment Update* and chair of the national-level Assessment Institute. Attention will be paid to the role of the chair in creating a culture of assessment, supporting student success, and in using assessment results to inform department planning and improvement efforts.

Presentation Description:

This session will be facilitated by Stephen Hundley, who, in addition to his senior leadership role at IUPUI, serves as executive editor of *Assessment Update*, a bi-monthly publication from Wiley/Jossey-Bass with a national readership. Additionally, he serves as chair of the Assessment Institute, now the nation's oldest and largest event focused exclusively on outcomes assessment. The Assessment Institute regularly attracts 1,000 participants from all fifty states and several foreign countries. The learning outcomes from this session are for participants to be able to: (1) Explain the significance of linking planning, assessment, and improvement activities; (2) Identify promising practices and trends in outcomes assessment from national exemplars; (3) Use credible evidence from outcomes assessment to inform department-level plans and improvements; and (4) Promote a department culture of continuous improvement using outcomes assessment as a critical component of that culture. The workshop will begin with a brief small-group discussion/report-out concerning what excites and worries participants about assessment in their context. Responses from participants will be referred to throughout the remainder of the workshop as a means of providing examples and/or amplifying a key point. A brief background on outcomes assessment, including definition, purpose, uses, and stakeholders to engage in the process, will be provided. Key themes from the past several years' content of both the Assessment Institute and *Assessment Update* will be shared, including recurring general themes and issues, along with topics from the following Assessment Institute tracks: (1) Community Engagement; (2) ePortfolio; (3) Faculty Development; (4) Global Learning; (5) Graduate and Professional Education; (6) High Impact Practices; (7) NILOA (National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment), a key Assessment Institute partner; and (8) Student Affairs Programs and Services. Time will also be spent sharing the unique roles that department chairs play in creating a culture of assessment, supporting student success through assessment, and using assessment results to inform ongoing department-level planning and improvement efforts. Recommendations for how chairs can effectively use department-level meetings, processes, and other resources to aid assessment practice will be presented. The workshop wraps-up with another brief small-group discussion/report-out on implications and opportunities for chairs, along with any additional future trends in assessment that participants would like to share. An action plan for what participants believe they should start, stop, and continue doing, assessment-wise, will conclude the workshop prior to adjournment. Handouts of key concepts presented in the workshop will be valuable take-away resources for participants.