

## Assessment Matters

The Assessment Committee recently met for the last meeting of the Fall 2006 semester. I reported that there are a handful of Form Bs still outstanding and that Forms C and D are now being submitted. **ALL** forms, including Classroom Assessment Records, need to be sent electronically to me by Wednesday, December 20 so that I can organize the information before semester's end. If anyone is unable to meet this deadline, he or she should contact me as soon as possible. Thank you again for your participation in this important process!

During the Assessment Committee Meeting, Haz gave an update on the Collaborative Assessment Mathematics Project (CAMP). Funding was received, so the assessment initiative is well underway. The first step was a complete survey of developmental programs. The CAMP team then identified the assessment constructs and prepared an assessment protocol. Content pre-tests have been developed to determine whether or not students have the requisite skills to have a chance to succeed in the class. Haz explained that there will also be weekly tests during the 15-week intensive assessment, which will begin on the first day of spring semester. These instruments will measure students' growth. CAMP will include analysis of homework, learning behaviors, and content knowledge. Lindsay Grott will also be assisting in the initiative by looking at non-content areas. Haz further reported that the assessment instruments were close to being ready and that the website ([camp.mnscu.edu](http://camp.mnscu.edu)) has been set up. Data will be entered into the website by the second week of next semester, and Haz hopes to have a complete analysis available by summer 2007. This is an exciting initiative and we are looking forward to the results.

There are still questions regarding how best to assess General Education at the institutional level for the 2007-2008 academic year (in lieu of the regular assessment process). Dean Helland suggested allowing faculty members and College Services to choose from the sub-points listed under the General Education outcomes. (It was previously determined that "communicate effectively" and "use information technology" would be the outcomes best suited to this initiative.) This process would hopefully allow for more flexibility because not all departments/programs or services would be able to assess the same outcome. Ultimately, it was suggested that a sub-group be formed from members of both campuses to work on this assessment initiative. If anyone is interested in serving in this group, please let me know.

The Assessment Committee also held a brief discussion on how to publicize assessment results. The beginning of the spring semester would be a great time to share assessment results from the fall since many departments meet prior to the beginning of classes. It was also decided that assessment results, particularly positive ones, could be shared in this column. Perhaps an event, in which assessment initiatives and results would be shared publicly, could be organized with CTL. Doug Olney, our Institutional Researcher, expressed his interest in

sharing the results of the graduate surveys done each year with any interested faculty and staff.

As some of you already know, this will be my last column as the Assessment Coordinator (and my last semester at MRCTC). My husband has accepted a transfer to Cleveland, OH, which will begin in mid-January. Dawn Olson will be coordinating assessment from January on.

I want to take this opportunity to express how much I have enjoyed working with all of you here at Mesabi Range. I wish you all the best in 2007 and in the upcoming years!

Stacey Orobona  
Assessment Coordinator