Creating Sustainable Assessment Practice through Collaborative Leadership: Informing and Being Informed by Higher Education Leaders

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“Few libraries exist in a vacuum, accountable only to themselves. There is always a larger context for assessing library quality, that is, what and how well does the library contribute to achieving the overall goals of the parent constituencies?”

Sarah Pritchard, 1996
Assessment in Action Goals

- Develop Professional Competencies
- Foster Collaborative Relationships
- Document Practices and Strategies
Community of Practice Action Research

Librarian Leader

Institutional Researcher

Faculty Member

Librarian Leader
ACADEMIC LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SUCCESS: Documented Practices from the Field

January 2015

DOCUMENTED LIBRARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS: Building Evidence with the Team-Based Assessment in Action Campus Projects

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✓ Students benefit from library instruction in their initial coursework.
✓ Library use increases student success.
✓ Collaborative academic programs and services involving the library enhance student learning.
✓ Information literacy instruction strengthens general education outcomes.
✓ Library research consultation services boost student learning.
Building Evidence

- Student retention improves with library instructional services.
- Library instruction adds value to a student’s long-term academic experience.
- The library promotes academic rapport and student engagement.
- Use of library space relates positively to student learning and success.
Collaborative Assessment ...

- Supports important conversations
- Fosters an understanding of functions/roles of different campus constituents
- Encourages assessment that moves beyond one project
- Promotes sustainable organizational change
- Reveals compelling findings about contributions to institutional outcomes
Emergent Leadership Practices ...

✧ achieve common understanding about definitions and attributes of academic success
✧ produce meaningful measures of student learning
✧ keep collaborative assessment activities aligned with institutional priorities
✧ create a unified campus message about student learning and success
Conversations with Higher Education Leaders

Achieving the Dream
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Association for Institutional Research
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts (Wabash College)
Community College Research Center (Columbia University)
Council of Independent Colleges
National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment
National Survey of Student Engagement
Pew Research Center
Student Affairs Administrators of Higher Education

ACRL
Association of College & Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association

ASSESSMENT in Action
Higher Education Leaders Advise Librarians ...

- use assessment data astutely
- envision advocacy as an important role of leadership
- investigate the contextual nature of learning experiences
- articulate the role of higher education in national life
Future Directions – Professional Development

• Continue to Build Front-Line Capacity and Assessment Skills → Action Research Roadshow

• Generate Campus and National Advocacy from Evidence → Directors Conversation