

## Information on Assessment Models and Best Practices

If you are interesting in finding models and best practices for assessing student learning, here are some resources you can explore:

**Attend a conference.** They are the best places to network with colleagues and learn about the latest assessment practices. Some of the best-known conferences include the following:

- The Middle States Annual Conference, held each December, always features presentations and poster sessions on assessment. For more information, visit <http://www.msche.org> and click on Events.
- The Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, held in late October or early November, is the country's largest conference devoted solely to assessment in higher education. For more information, visit <http://planning.iupui.edu/conferences/national/nationalconf.html>.
- The International Assessment and Retention Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), is held each June and focuses in integrating assessment and retention in academic and student affairs. For more information, visit <http://www.assessment.net/>.
- The Association for Institutional Research Annual Forum, held each May, devotes a track to assessment. For more information, visit <http://www.airweb.org>.
- The National Conference on First Year Assessment, sponsored by the National Center on the First Year of College and Students in Transition, offers models and best practices than can often be applied beyond the first college year. For more information, visit <http://www.sc.edu/fye/index.html> and click on Events.
- The North Carolina State Undergraduate Assessment Symposium (<http://www.ncsu.edu/assessment/symposium/>) and the Texas A&M Assessment Conference (<http://assessment.tamu.edu/conference/>) each attracts several hundred people from across the country. Their smaller size makes them ideal for networking.

**Subscribe to *Assessment Update*.** This peer-reviewed quarterly publication is the closest thing the American higher education community has to an assessment journal. It always includes articles on cutting-edge practices by assessment practitioners. To subscribe, visit <http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-AU.html>.

**Search the massive *Internet Resources for Higher Education Outcomes Assessment*** sponsored by North Carolina State University (<http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/UPA/assmt/resource.htm>). Among its hundreds of links are assessment "handbooks," institutional assessment websites, and information on assessment of specific disciplines and skills.

**Join the ASSESS listserv.** This is a fairly low-traffic but useful unmediated listserv in which higher education assessment practitioners share ideas on the nuts and bolts of assessment. To join or search the archives, visit <http://lsv.uky.edu/archives/assess.html>.