

# Out Comes Learning

McHenry County College's Assessment Team Newsletter

*A newsletter dedicated to the promotion and recognition of Academic Assessment at MCC*

**Our Mission:** The mission of the McHenry County College assessment team is to improve student learning by providing support to faculty for learning outcomes assessment.



## Spring 2008 Assessment Team:

Back row, left to right,  
Phillip Getchell, Elaine  
Whalen-Pedersen, Kathy  
Chamberlain, Diane  
Nyhammer, Bev Dow,  
Jennie Hoffman, Judi  
Cameron, Gabriel Decio,  
Rick Clute.  
Front row: Julie Freelove,  
Reggie Monday.

## MCC Welcomes Rick Clute and Judi Cameron to the Assessment Team

**Rick Clute** joined MCC as the Dean of Adult Education & Workforce Services in November and now he joins MCC's Assessment Team. Rick has 20 years of experience in Adult Education, most recently as the Director of ABE/GED at Elgin Community College. He earned his A.A. from ECC, a B.A. from Northern IL University and his M.F.A. from the University of Utah. While at ECC he served briefly on an assessment committee and looks forward to his role on MCC's committee. He hopes to contribute to the team by sharing perspectives from the Adult Education department.

**Judi Cameron** is an instructor of anthropology teaching a variety of introductory-level courses to the field. She is joining the assessment committee as the learning liaison for the HPSSS division. She began her career at MCC as an adjunct instructor in 2000 and moved into a full-time position in 2006. Between 1996 and 2002 she also taught anthropology courses as an adjunct instructor at Loyola University of Chicago, College of Lake County, Triton College, and Aurora University. In addition to teaching, she has been active in archaeological research serving as the faunal analyst for a number of projects in the Southwestern and Great Basin regions of the United States.

## Nine Questions that Assessments Can Answer

1. Are our students meeting our standards?
2. Are our students meeting external standards?
3. How do our students compare to their peers?
4. How do our students compare to the best of their peers?
5. Are our students improving?
6. Are our teaching and curricula improving?
7. Are our students doing as well as they can?
8. What are our students' relative strengths and weaknesses?
9. Are we and our constituents getting the most for our investment?

According to Linda Suskie in her book *Assessing Student Learning - a Common Sense Guide* (2004), these are the questions that address accountability issues in student learning. As the Spelling's Commission continues its quest for evidence regarding the effectiveness of Higher Education Institutions and student learning in particular, it is important that McHenry County College continue to develop as a Learner Centered institution. It is better that we, the professionals, rather than a division of our government determine student proficiency.

## Curriculum Mapping

Now that we have adopted the new General Education Outcomes, curriculum mapping or becomes the next step toward a learning -centered institution. The new General Education Outcomes consist of the following:

- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Effective Communication
- Ethical Awareness
- Technological Literacy

It is our responsibility as educators to address these outcomes throughout the college curricula. Where do we both address and assess these outcomes? By using a curriculum mapping approach, all academic departments are able to identify their piece of the learning puzzle. It can then be made transparent to other stakeholders, primarily students. Mapping will improve the richness of the academic experience for both students and instructors as the General Education Outcomes become more transparent and assessable. This spring semester, the assessment team will be working with selected departments to do curriculum mapping of the new General Education Outcomes. Eventually, all departments will undergo this process. This is an exciting time as we move forward in improving our students' learning at MCC.

### **Passion for Assessment Month**

**1. Do a CAT in the month of February**

**2. Submit a report to your Department Chair and Kathy Chamberlain.**

**Report forms are on insidemcc (Forms/LSSS)**

**3. Get chocolate!**