

# 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 provide support to divisional faculty for learning outcomes assessment. This support will be provided by division liaisons who will communicate information about the assessment and transformation process; coordinate the flow of information; investigate and recommend plans to record, organize, analyze, and report data; and be an advocate for the integration of assessment into the College community for the purpose of improving student learning.

## Fall Semester Wrap-Up

The semester is quickly coming to an end and we all have so much to do! To help faculty better plan for the time remaining we wanted to make sure that everyone understands the time-line for assessment activities. By Wednesday, December 15, 2004, there are several things, which need to be accomplished. If you are a Department Chair, you will have:

- ✓ Completed the inputting of all the information and data into TracDat from:
  - The 2002/03 Planning Document, and
  - The 2004 Annual Course Assessment Update
- ✓ Identified another course to assess for this academic year, using TracDat.
- ✓ Received any fall 2004 assessment data from instructors in your area. Please remind all instructors that you need this data prior to the December 15 deadline.

Looking ahead to the spring semester, there are several dates to add to your schedules. On January 5 and 7, there will be an open lab in A 210. Assessment liaisons will be available in the mornings, from 9 a.m. to noon, to assist Department Chairs with the inputting of the fall assessment data into TracDat. On January 6, the Spring Workshop will include a discussion and the recording of transformation steps based on your fall 2004 data.

If you need any assistance prior to the end of the semester, contact your division liaison.



Happy holidays, everyone!



## Humanities Division is the C.A.T.'S Meow !!!

Kudos to the faculty in the Humanities Division for winning the C.A.T. of the Month competition for the month of October with a 79% participation rate ! The instructors took the challenge offered by the Assessment Team to use the “Reflective Paper” as an assessment tool in their classes. As a result, they won a pizza party that was served at the November Division Meeting. The Math/Science Division finished second with a 68% participation rate.

C.A.T.S. are chosen from the book, Classroom Assessment Techniques written by Thomas Angelo and Patricia Cross. The purpose behind using a C.A.T. is to improve student learning. It gives the instructor a snapshot of students’ learning at a particular time and in a particular unit of study. The instructor can then make transformations in classroom presentation, review, time spent or other strategies to improve student learning.

Classroom Assessment Techniques are examples of Formative Assessment.

Your Assessment Team is planning more C.A.T. of the Month competitions during the Spring semester. Please try one and share your C.A.T. experience with your colleagues and especially your Faculty Learning Liaison.



*(Humanities Division enjoying their winning pizza.)*

### Assessment Vocabulary

**Formative Assessment** – Ongoing feedback for the purpose of improving learning and student performance.

**Summative Assessment**- Culminating evaluation of student performance against a set of predetermined standards

### Developing Classroom Assessment Tools on Blackboard

Both instructors whose classes are web-enhanced and online instructors have the opportunity to do classroom assessment through Blackboard. The **survey manager** on Blackboard allows instructors to develop a classroom assessment tools in a few minutes to be delivered as a survey. The students can complete these surveys either by name or anonymously in only a few minutes. Once all the surveys are completed, Blackboard creates a report which tallies the data and lists all text responses by question. This feature makes it possible to use Blackboard classroom assessment tools unobtrusively, with no need for printed copies or for a significant class time investment.

Blackboard surveys can include the following types of question: multiple choice, true/false, multiple answer, ordering, matching, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions. Additionally, instructors may upload a set of questions from an existing survey as a pool of questions, with which Blackboard creates a new survey instantly.

A **workshop on how to develop classroom assessment tools on Blackboard** will be offered by Faculty Development on **Tuesday, February 8, 2005 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:50 p.m. in A-210**. By the end of the period, the participants will have developed a classroom assessment tool on Blackboard. This workshop will be facilitated by Gabriel Decio.

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