Swimming Upstream with your life jacket on—Making use of data to impact student learning & institutional effectiveness

Tuesday, March 22, 2022 from 3:00 - 3:50 PM ET
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Session Outcomes

- Identify how community-driven programming supports student affairs units in assessment
- Discover the value of partnership in leading student affairs assessment efforts
- Create a plan to adapt sustainable processes to support student affairs assessment year round
Agenda

- Current Student Affairs Landscape
- Overview of Partnership
- Communities of Practice Methodology
- Open Online Course
- Lessons Learned & Tips
- Action Planning—Getting Started
- Next Steps Discussion
Student Affairs Current Landscape

Reflection Questions

(share in the chat): 

- What is the most pressing challenge you are facing related to assessment on your campus?
- What has been a bright spot in your work?
Student Affairs Current Landscape

- Hybrid/Remote Work
- Mental Health
- Basic Needs
- Declining Enrollment
- The “Great Resignation”
- Social and Racial Justice

IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS/COMMUNITY
What is SAAL?
www.studentaffairsassessment.org

Mission
SAAL’s mission is to create an open and welcoming environment for educators who coordinate and/or contribute to assessment for and within divisions of student affairs to share and receive information and resources that will advance their work.

Vision
SAAL seeks to improve the quality of assessment practice within student affairs by creating a robust and active network of student affairs assessment professionals, experts, and faculty, who are committed to sharing knowledge and resources, identifying and advancing critical conversations, and producing and distributing high quality training materials and research related to student affairs assessment.
What does SAAL Do?

www.studentaffairsassessment.org

- Annual meeting and Informal get-togethers at national conferences
- Structured conversations (free professional development)
- Members-only listserv
- Presentations at national/regional conferences
- Blog, Podcast, and Resource Repository
- Building assessment scholarship
  - Journal of Student Affairs Inquiry
  - MOOC: Applying & Leading Assessment in Student Affairs
What is AEFIS?

Together, we are supporting a comprehensive approach to Institutional Effectiveness
Partnership Background

AEFIS Partners with Student Affairs Assessment Leaders to Expand Professional Learning

AEFIS is the leading ed-tech company committed to empowering higher education to demonstrate educational impact through a unified platform for assessment management, learner success, and continuous improvement to help activate authentic lifelong learning. This commitment has led to the AEFIS-Student Affairs Assessment Leaders partnership as a key opportunity to advance assessment for student learning across the country.
Introducing Your Communities of Practice

Learn, Teach, Collaborate, Innovate.

www.aefisacademy.org
What is AEFIS Academy?

AEFIS Academy is enabling us to:

- Integrate standing group space for communication and networking
- Pair course topic-related resources (webinars, blogs, groups)
- All centralized to promote engagement year-round!

We are considered **Innovation Communities**

Formed to create *breakthrough ideas*, *new knowledge*, and *new practices*.
Reflection Question

- Have you ever been a part of a community of practice? What did the experience mean to you?
Communities of Practice

CoPs
Communities of Practice

Domain  Practice  Community
Communities of Practice Protocol

1. Domain
   What we care about

2. Practice
   What we do together about it

3. Community
   Who cares about it

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About the course…a Community of Practice in Action
Six course sections have run so far – each in winter/spring

- Born out of PDF resource creation in 2015-2016
- First course was launched in spring 2017 with CSU
- Earn PLA credit in NLU EdD program for course badge
8 self-paced modules of...
  8 discussion boards
  7 quizzes
  2 written assignments
  Video lectures & personal takes
  Required & further-learning readings
  Optional small groups & live sessions
1. Assessment Foundations for Effective Practice
2. Assessment Planning
3. Coaching & Consulting
4. Aligning Assessment w/ Institutional Priorities
5. Critical Approaches & Mindsets
6. Using Data to Inform Decisions
7. Culture of Assessment
8. Connecting Concepts to Advance SA Assessment
Students complete course at high rates!

Average completion rate for MOOCs (paid and free) typically ranges from 3-15%.
Positive Results

- 95% of students agreed course materials had a positive impact.
- 86% of students agreed course activities had a positive impact.
- 93% of students rated course quality 4 or 5 out of 5.
Lessons Learned & Tips for Developing Strategic Partnerships

- Create space/opportunities for engagement with people and content
- Cultivate a sustainable approach and mentality (not one-and-done)
- By creating structured PD, you open the door for partnerships
- Invaluable to have accessible collection of contacts with known interests
- Leverage your network to reach out to people (internal & external)
Action Planning & Getting Started

Consider what infrastructure you can create:
- Series of blogs
- Series of webinars
- Assessment toolkits
- Summer book club

Focus on WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY
“Taking on a challenge is a lot like riding a horse, isn’t it? If you’re comfortable while you’re doing it, you’re probably doing it wrong.”

- Ted Lasso

Dr. Megan Bell
Open Course Instructor/Student Affairs Assessment
SAAL/Cal State Northridge
More Information and Resources

Visit SAAL’s website and subpages:
http://studentaffairsassessment.org/
http://studentaffairsassessment.org/online-open-course

Visit AEFIS Academy Hub for SAAL/Course:
https://www.aefisacademy.org/content-hubs/your-student-affairs-assessment-leaders-hub/

Email with questions:
saassessmentleaders@gmail.com
Your Student Affairs Assessment Leaders Hub
Learn from the best at the 2022 NASPA Annual Conference!
March 19-23, 2022

Featured Resources

**LIVE EVENTS**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT LEADERS**

**Live Event** | January 25 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

**Student Affairs Assessment Leaders Present—Open-Online Course Preview Session Live!**

Prior to launching our free assessment MOOC, Applying & Leading Assessment in Student Affairs, the Student Affairs Assessment Leaders (SAAL) is hosting a live session on January 25 at 2:00 PM EST with the instr...
Course is running February 7 – April 3, 2022

Registration is still open until March 25 - go here to sign up if you want access to the course:

http://studentaffairsassessment.org/online-open-course
Works Cited

Works Cited

Thank You!

Session Presenters

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Attend ➔