AAC&U General Education Conference in New Orleans

“Welcome to N’Orleans” said the bellhop as we exited the taxi at the Holiday Inn Hotel in the French Quarter. In the background we heard the sound of swing jazz music, and the warm, humid air greeted us. The smells of Mardi Gras lingered, and beads are scattered along Bourbon Street.

A team of seven faculty, staff, and administrators attended the AAC&U General Education Conference February 22-25, 2012. Carl Reiber, Ian Dove, Rod Metcalf, Anne Stevens, Dan Bubb, Sunny Gittens, and Karen Strong attended sessions on assessing general education, critical thinking, and e-portfolios, convening in the evening to discuss our findings.

In addition to learning about ways to assess general education at the course and program levels, we also walked away with ideas about potentially hosting a national general education assessment conference at UNLV in the near future.

Dr. Marilee Bresciani to be Keynote Speaker at May Conference

Dr. Marilee Bresciani, Professor of Administration, Leadership, and Post-Secondary Education will be the keynote speaker at UNLV’s Annual Academic Assessment Conference on May 17-18, 2012 in the Armargosa Room of the Lied Library.

An internationally recognized expert in assessing general education, Dr. Bresciani will speak to UNLV faculty about using best practices to assess general education at the course and program levels. She has authored and co-authored several books about assessing general education, including Assessing Student Learning in General Education: Good Practice Case Studies, which provides insights from the experiences of thirteen institutions that sought the best ways to assess general education at the course and program levels. Assessment Conference participants (both days) will receive a complimentary copy of her book.

Dr. Bresciani will bring her vast experience and knowledge in assessment to UNLV by helping us think about ways to effectively assess general education at the course and program levels.

UNLV Establishes Core Themes For Northwest Commission on Colleges & Universities Accreditation Process

Three core themes were established in 2011 for the new Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) accreditation reporting process. The core themes were derived from UNLV’s Mission Statement.

UNLV’s core themes are:

- Promote Student Learning and Success
- Advance and Support Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
- Foster Inclusion and Community Engagement

UNLV will be hosting a team of NWCCU evaluators in Spring 2013. The team will evaluate how well UNLV is integrating its core themes into its planning and activities and the Standard 2 report, Resources and Capacity.

Watch for upcoming campus community meetings in Fall 2012 to comment on Standard 2.
Spring Brown Bag Assessment Workshops

Hosted by Dan Bubb, Director of Academic Assessment

Spring 2012 Brown Bag Assessment workshops were held on ways for departments to articulate learning outcomes objectives, select the best instruments to measure learning outcomes, and ways to “close the loop” at the course and program levels.

Attendees indicated how much they enjoyed and learned from the workshops. Richard Havey, Associate Professor of Jazz and Dance, and Cathy Allen, Associate Professor of Dance said:

“We attended two of the brown bag series by Dan on First Year course development and assessments. The series was very helpful with fun hands-on examples and good resources to go to on the UNLV web site. Dan had a great presentation and explained in detail where to look for answers. We look forward to attending the next series in the fall.”

Steven Hoover, Instruction Design Librarian stated, “The brown bags are a great way to create a space for an ongoing conversation about assessment at UNLV. An open and inclusive dialogue will help to keep the campus moving in the right direction.”

Check the calendar below for the Fall 2012 workshops.

Event Calendar

- May 17-18, 2012 Annual Academic Assessment Conference
- Fall 2012 Brown Bag Academic Assessment Workshops:
  - October 3, 4, 2012
  - October 17, 18, 2012
  - October 31, November 1, 2012
- November 9, 2012 Fall Symposium

Academic Assessment Website:
http://provost.unlv.edu/Assessment/

Faculty Teaching General Education Courses

Fall Symposium

The November 9, 2012 Symposium will feature faculty presenting their findings from using the University Undergraduate Learning Outcomes (UULOs) to assess student learning outcomes in their general education courses.

The one day workshop will include strands hosted by Dan Bubb, Director of Academic Assessment; Carl Reiber, Interim Director of General Education and Professor of Biology; Jen Fabbi, Director, Research and Education Lied Library; and other colleagues involved in assessing general education. Sue Armitage, Instructional Designer of online courses, will conduct a strand on assessing online courses.

The Symposium is open to all who wish to attend, and will be held in the Student Union. The Office of Academic Assessment is excited to partner with members of the UNLV community, especially Carl Reiber, Interim Director of General Education; Greg Brown, Faculty Senate Chair and Professor of History; and Ian Dove, Chair of the General Education Core Curriculum Committee.