

Outside the



Notes from Institutional Effectiveness

Our Perspective

The vision of the Department of Institutional Effectiveness is to continuously build and support a culture of evidence through the provision of institutional research studies, effectiveness enhancing methodologies and innovative strategic planning approaches to increase institutional and student performance.

2012-2013 Outcome Assessments Completed, Now What?

With the start of the 2013-2014 academic year, faculty members have returned to teach summer and/or are preparing for the upcoming fall term. Simultaneously, staff members have been working to close the gaps of the previous term while in preparation for the upcoming semester. Resounding terms of student learning outcomes (SLOs), administrative unit outcomes (AUOs), measures, assessments, findings and action planning permeates the air of each group. The questions “*What happens next*” arises after conducting outcomes assessment. The following will cover the basis of outcomes assessment as an antecedent to the integrated planning process.

The shift to a culture of evidence has been a hard traveled road for many institutions. The lack of clear vision, communication and participation have been vital turning points in institutional effectiveness and has led to many institutional sanctions by accrediting commissions.

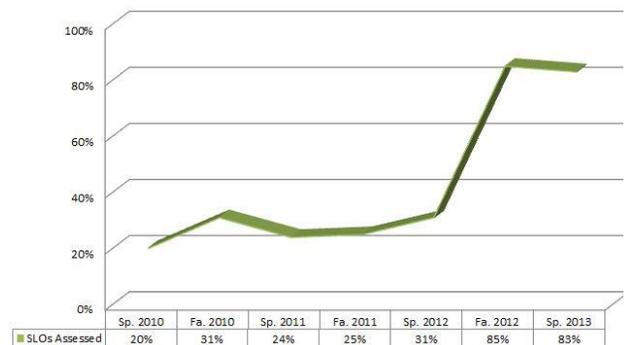
An exception to this challenge is occurring at Lassen Community College (LCC). Through the collaborative efforts between administrators, faculty and staff members, this institution has made tremendous steps in building a culture of evidence as a catalyst to policy and decision making.

The institutional efforts reflect a positive participation in outcomes assessment with 100% of outcomes defined and a recent upward trend in outcomes assessed during the 2012-2013 academic year (Figure 1). This upward momentum can be attributed to the campus-wide adoption of outcomes assessment and integration of the electronic Internet-based reporting application WEAVE Online.

In tandem with the shift towards using outcomes assessment to facilitate change, LCC has incorporated outcomes assessment into the program review process. Sequentially, program review reporting has been fused into the budgeting process and the master

planning documents to support the strategic goals and mission of the college.

Figure 1 SLO Assessment Trend



The plan for the future is to continue to move the institution forward through effective collaboration with faculty and staff to develop innovative strategies to increase assessment reporting and data integration. Through this approach we are seeking to yield more streamline and robust reporting methods to support evidence-based decision making and institutional sustainability.

To answer the question “*What happens next*” the campus will begin to prepare for outcomes assessment in fall and the incorporation of findings and action plans from 2013 into the 2013-2014 program reviews in the spring as part of the ongoing planning cycle.

