

**Special points of interest:**

- New standards go into effect for us during our next full self-study
- Old standards are being used for WCC's mid-term report
- In regard to SLOs, there are stricter expectations by the ACCJC
- ASCCC held an Accreditation Institute to help colleges understand the new standards

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## Accreditation Standards are Changing

Earlier this semester we received the great news that we, as a college, were removed from “warning” status and reaffirmed full accreditation. This decision by ACCJC was based on our follow-up reports that were collaboratively created with both college and district input and a on-site campus visit with ACCJC representatives.

Although we have met and satisfied the accreditation standards, we have not stopped thinking about accreditation. WCC is in the process of drafting our official mid-term report that is due in October. WCC's Accreditation Response Team (ART) has been working on this new document and working with various campus committees in the creation of this document. You (or a committee with which you are involved) might be approached to provide evidence or information for these important college documents.

Currently our follow-up report is responding to various “self-identified improvement plans” that were documented in our last full college self-study. Therefore, we are using the standards from our last accreditation to formulate our responses.

**CHANGE IS COMING!** Over the past few years ACCJC has drafted, vetted, and implemented a new set of standards that will be used in the evaluation of institutions. Several colleges that are being evaluated this semester are required to use these new standards. We will be required to use the new standards with our next full self-study.

In preparation for these upcoming changes, ASCCC (Academic Senate for California Community Colleges) held an Accreditation Institute in February. Julie Brown and Christopher Howerton attended this 2 day event in San Francisco. There were various presentations and several “break-out” sessions that provided clarification to the expectation of the newly written standards. Shared concerns, questions, and best practices were discussed. Several colleges were interested and impressed with some of our strategies with our institutional student learning outcomes (iSLOs). One interesting fact is that in the design of our iSLO assessments, we are able to collect 3 full cycles of data on all 8 iSLOs between each of our full self-studies in a 6-year cycle.

During the institute there was a lot of discussion regarding the new accreditation standards and specifically the requirement for the reporting and dialogue of various data elements and SLOs. The WCC SLO committee will continue to monitor how several other colleges are meeting these new requirements; and will continue to work with WCC Academic Senate and ART to ensure that we as a college meet these expectations. It has been the philosophy of the WCC SLO coordinator that any new procedure that we adopt should be sustainable, predictable, and clearly understood by those who are involved. Therefore, any changes that WCC may make in regard to our SLO work will be communicated to the campus.

## ACCJC Annual SLO Report

In March, WCC submitted an annual report to ACCJC. We were able to report 240 out of our 243 active college courses have ongoing assessment of learning outcomes documented. You might be asking, “What about the other three?” In response, we have a few new courses that are being offered for the first time this semester and initial data will be collected and reported by the end of this term. We were also able to report our continual 100% assessments at the institutional level, the program level, and in our general education. Although we are at 100% in these areas, the SLO committee and the curriculum committee are discussing ways to strengthen these assessments. These ongoing collaborations are intended to advance our curriculum, aid in the evaluation of our GE courses/patterns, and promote an ongoing dialogue focused on continuous quality improvement.

## Assessment Method Highlight: Rubrics

There are multiple ways to assess learning and the achievement of outcomes. Starting with this issue of *The SLO Lane*, we will be highlighting various assessment tools and strategies that you may want to consider as you continue to assess your courses/programs/ or services for our students.

*The SLO Lane's* assessment method highlight ... **THE RUBRIC**

Many of us have used rubrics in our classes or have used them to score/assess various assessments. At a basic level, a rubric is a tool that is usually presented as a chart, grid, or list that identifies objective criteria and degrees to which the criteria are met.

Not every assessment tool will be appropriate for every type of assessment. Therefore, using a rubric in every assessment process may not always be a good fit. Here are some quick pros and cons of using a rubric for assessment of SLOs.

**Pros:** Saves time in assessing; objective; clear standards are identified.

**Cons:** May not account for outside circumstances; and may not work well for some artistic/ creative projects

For more information on rubrics you may want to consider checking out the following book which is also available in our WCC Library.

**Stevens, D. & Levi, A.J. (2005). Introduction to Rubrics. An Assessment Tool to Save Grading Time, Convey Effective Feedback and Promote Student Learning. Sterling, VA: Stylus**

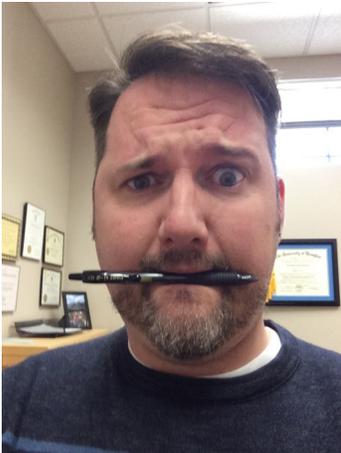
**ISBN# 978-1-57922-115-7 WCC CALL NUMBER 371.272 S844 2005**

## Kudos

- **Julie Brown**—The SLO Committee would like to formally recognize Julie for her work regarding accreditation and collaboration with our committee as it relates to sustainable processes focused on continuous quality improvement for our college.

## SLO Tips and Reminders

- Your SLO assessment could be built into an assignment you already have for your course and does not necessarily need to be a separate activity.
- Be sure to submit and/or upload into TracDat your SLO results by May 26, 2015 (Same day all grades are due from instructors).
- The WCC SLO Committee will continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 12-1pm in 621. These meetings are open to any interested individual and the agendas and approved minutes can be found on our committee webpage.



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## A word from your SLO Coordinator...

Are we really near the end of another academic year? How can it be? There is still so much to get done! As we set our sights on the conclusion of another term, the SLO committee and I have already begun our end-of-the-term review of our committee goals, and have already started goal setting for the 2015-2016 cycle.

With this issue of *The SLO Lane* we have added a new column (Assessment Method Highlight) that I hope will be a source of support to your development and implementation of outcome assessments in your respective areas.

In addition to my role as your SLO coordinator, I am also serving on the district IERT (Institutional Effectiveness Review Team). This

district committee has recommended (and now administered) the Ruffalo/Noel-Levitz survey that measures campus climate. The IERT was able to add a few survey items that will be useful for our institutional outcome assessments. We can now include the perception of faculty, staff, and administrators regarding our SLO efforts with other data that has been collected. Personally, I am excited to see what the results of this survey provide.

In February, Julie Brown and I attended the ASCCC's Accreditation Institute and I have shared some of the information from this event in this newsletter. This conference was lively and full of formal and informal

conversations with colleagues from all over the state. Many colleges are addressing similar SLO and accreditation concerns as we are. This event was an excellent opportunity for collaboration. Also, during the institute I attended several presentations and "break-out" sessions that have energized my thinking regarding possible strategies we could employ in addressing the new accreditation standards.

Finally, the SLO committee is working on the redesign of the campus posters that are in the various buildings on our campus. Keep a look out for them in the near future. It has been a busy semester, but I appreciate all of your hard work as it relates to SLOs and student success. Enjoy your summer break!