



STRATEGY FORUM
February 27 – March 1, 2013

City Colleges of Chicago-Wilbur Wright College

In recognition of the continuing pursuit of quality higher education
through participation in
The Academic Quality Improvement Program
of The Higher Learning Commission

AQIP Strategy Forum

All colleges in the Higher Learning Commission AQIP accreditation pathway are required to attend an AQIP Strategy Forum every four years. Wright College participated in its second Strategy Forum since the college became an AQIP institution in 2008 at the 'Q' Center in St. Charles, Illinois from February 27, 2013 through March 1, 2013. Nine Wright College staff members participated in the forum. College faculty representatives included Alicia Anzaldo, Pat Miceli, and Suzanne Sanders. Interim President Don Laackman, Interim Vice President Mike Davis, Transfer Center Director Susan Calabrese, Dean of Instruction Kevin Li, Associate Dean of Instruction Nancy Koll, and Research and Planning Assistant Dean Brian Trzebiatowski also attended and participated.

The theme for the forum was *Creating the Climate for Continuous Learning*. Previous to the forum, the college AQIP Steering Committee identified the AQIP Category *Leading and Communicating* from the 2012 AQIP Systems Appraisal as the area most in need of improvement. At the forum, the Wright College team worked as a small group and intermittently with participants from other AQIP colleges through a series of seventeen exercises to refine a plan for college improvement in this area. Other participating institutions included Cuyahoga, Moraine Valley, and San Juan Community Colleges.

From the refinement process, a plan was developed for an AQIP Action Project to design a Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Within the CTL, a leadership academy will be developed that will include mentoring for new faculty members and training for new department chairs. The development of an extended new employee orientation was also discussed.

As an initial step in this project, an Employee Engagement Survey was administered to participants at the college's AQIP Retreat on March 8, 2013. The survey results will be used to determine the engagement of college staff members in the college community and the general consensus on the value of a CTL to the college. Results from the survey will be available soon.

Submitted by Nancy Koll

Changes to PBworks Site

The PBworks site that AQIP category committees have been using as a resource library is being reorganized so that development of the actual text of the Systems Portfolio will take place in its wiki. This change will allow for increased participation in the updating process and greater transparency in development.

Under the new organizational system, the portfolio will be divided so that each

(Continued on page 2)





(Continued from page 1)

question in each category has its own page in the wiki. Members of the category committees will be able to make changes to the newest version of the category answers while maintaining the old versions so that any unwanted changes can be reversed. The folders in which committees stored support documents and data will still be available.

The starting point for this new organizational structure is to divide the original summer 2012 Systems Portfolio into the individual question pages. Each question page will contain the original answer submitted in the 2012 Portfolio, the feedback that came from the HLC in the Systems Appraisal, and Wright's responses to that feedback.

The question pages will be organized with the oldest information on the bottom and the newest working version of the answer at the top of the page. The current working versions for each question will also be collected in category pages so that at any time, the most current version of each category is available for viewing.

By using the wiki to increase participation

and transparency in the Systems Portfolio, we will make the updating process reflect the spirit of continuous improvement that is central to an AQIP institution.

Submitted by Terrence Doherty

The Wright in Your Corner (WiYC) Student Center

Title V, a grant for Hispanic serving institutions, features WiYC (called the First Year Center in the grant) as one of the key projects meant to support students with their academic plans, overall goals, retention, and success.

The mission of the WiYC student center is to engage students by connecting them to the services and offices that will help them succeed in the classroom, choose courses, explore careers and network socially.

Goals:

- Collaborate with on campus services to support new and established students.
- Use assessment data to advance student learning and college experience.
- Cultivate faculty participation in campus wide activities outside of the classroom.
- Host interdisciplinary activities to

Assessment Committee Members

Noah Marshall – Biology – Assessment Chair

Adrienne Leyva – OTA

Andrew Spiropolous – Physical Education

Beverly Bennet – Social Sciences

Merry Mayer – Social Sciences

Fred Hernandez – Computer Information Systems

Jean Burt – Nursing

Darlene Attiah – Biology

James Papademas – Business

James Redlich – Paralegal

Susan Colon – Visual and Performing Arts

Karen Jefferies – Radiography

Tracy Mitchell – Physical Sciences

Krzysztof Ochwat – Physical Sciences

Linda Neil – Library

Vince Bruckert – English

Julius Nadas – Math

Adrian Guiu – Humanities

Suzanne Sanders-Betzold – English

Alicia Anzaldo – Biology

Helen Rarick – Biology

Mai Aly - Registrar

promote “Learning Communities” offerings.

- Promote dialogue and discussion across various disciplines.
- Expand on the use of social media to support Wright in Your Corner and highlight student successes/voices.
- Establish strong ties with our external and internal community.
- Promote student clubs and activities.

WiYC accomplishments in Fall 2013:

The WiYC welcomed to its team an Academic Support Specialist. Meghan

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Jones will be working closely with faculty, and the various support services on campus in designing initiatives to increase student performance and success.

Hosted an information session on the application of Grades First. On, April 10th, WiYC collaborated with the Gateway on presenting an informational session to discuss Grades First as an early alert system. The discussion initiated a college wide dialogue on the rewards and challenges with the application of Grades First in the classroom. A panel of students, faculty, advisors, Academic Support tutors, and Grades First experts shared their experience with the tool.

Created an online assessment tool on the various student services at Wright. In collaboration with Maureen Mulcrone, the WiYC is designing and implementing the assessment survey in select CIS 120 classes.

Organized a Tutors Meet and Greet. A total of 87 students walked into the WiYC from 12:00-2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3rd to meet with our team of tutors at the Academic Support Center. The tutors introduced themselves to the students and encouraged them to seek tutoring services. In appreciation, the students signed a thank you card for the advisors. The WiYC received positive feedback from both tutors and students; we plan to offer another meet and greet in Fall 2013.

Organized an Advisors Meet and Greet during Advisor Appreciation week. A total

of 93 students walked into the WiYC from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb 27th to meet with their advisor or schedule and appointment. The advisors introduced the students to the use of Grades First. In appreciation, the students signed a thank you card for the advisors. The WiYC received positive feedback from both advisors and students; we plan to offer another meet and greet in Fall 2013.

Developing a student support highlight video. In collaboration with Bobbi Baschleben and Maureen Mulcrone, the WiYC is putting together a student support services video anticipated to be accessible to students at registration, during new student orientation, and on the Wright College website by Fall 2013.

Developed various student workshops. Such as Earth Day Clothing Exchange, Wright Side Poetry Slam, Wright Side Magazine Rollout, Developing Study Skills, Writing a Thesis Statement, Interviewing Do's and Dont's, Integrating Quotes, Water Color Painting, u.select as a Transfer Tool...

Outreached to the various student support services offices on campus to collaborate on joint efforts in providing cross-integrated resources for our students. The WiYC just recently launched its Wright College webpage. Wright College Page > About Us > Departments > Wright in Your Corner

We encourage faculty, support services, and students to utilize the resources accessible at the WiYC center. We are located in S100. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursdays 9:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

and Fridays 12:30-2:00 p.m. Email: wiycc@ccc.edu, Phone: 773-481-8414.

Submitted by The WiYC Team

The assessment projects in the Humanities department:

Professor Martin Uwodi measures critical thinking in Philosophy courses by using a short quiz which students have to take at the beginning and at the end of class. The same short questions are also given to students during midterm week and finals week. This allows the instructor to assess the impact of the teaching of philosophical concepts.

In one scaffolded assessment project, Professor Hoover asks students to produce written work at various stages of the completion. So, for instance, for an assignment which will culminate in a final, formal essay on narrative devices in film, she first has them produce a pass/fail assignment, which lists the narrative devices that will be discussed in the paper and the example of the device from the film; after this they are required to produce a paragraph on one of the narrative devices in their chosen film, which fleshes out the ideas that they are examining, and finally the students complete the full-length essay. The goal of the project is to measure how scaffolding leads to better final results.

Professor Adrian Guiu assesses the connection between discussion board posting on Blackboard and the quality of final essays. He observes how breaking up

(Continued on page 4)

assignments allows students to better approach bigger projects like final papers. This is especially helpful in disciplines like Philosophy and Ethics. Through the preliminary data he observed how weekly postings on the discussion board increases the quality and the completion rate of final papers.

The entire department is involved in curriculum mapping of specific course SLOs to departmental and general education SLOs.

Submitted by Adrian Guiu

Library Resources Relocated

The Faculty Resource Room in the Library (L214) has been converted to a student study room.

Assessment books, DVD's and journals, formerly housed in the Faculty Resource Room, are being moved to an open shelf in the library. Instructors are encouraged to use the assessment materials for inspiration and practical planning of classroom activities. In addition to our current resources, the Assessment Committee has purchased a collection of new materials to further assist you in creating, evaluating, and improving your classroom practices.

Stop by the library and take a look at the Assessment Collection.

Submitted by Linda Neil



If you have any comments, concerns, news stories or just want to get in touch, please send an email to nmarshall9@ccc.edu.

We value your thoughts, opinions, and ideas and will do everything we can to take your thoughts on board.

Assessment Committee

