

# OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT UPDATE



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## Colloquium

Wednesday, Oct. 29  
12:30-2:00, Alger 110

## General Education Assessment

Critical and Creative  
Thinking

Written Communication

Research Fluency

### RSVP:

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- or -

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## General Education Assessment

The project of assessing the General Education program has completed its second year! Join us on Wednesday, October 29, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Alger 110 for a GE Assessment Colloquium, where faculty members will present the most recent result of assessing Critical and Creative Thinking, Research Fluency, and Writ-

ten Communication in First Year Seminar and First Year Writing. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

During this academic year, COGE is preparing to pilot assessment of the Collaborative Work and Oral Communication learning outcomes. Faculty with expertise or interest in

either of these areas are invited and encouraged to work on these sub-committees.

Please email ([COGE@ric.edu](mailto:COGE@ric.edu)) or call 456-9697 with expressions of interest or questions. We expect the committees to form rapidly and begin work soon.

## NSSE

The NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) has been administered to RIC students biannually, since 2005. In 2013, RIC's results compared favorably with results of its peer institutions on 'Higher Order Learning', 'Reflective & Integrated Learning', and 'Learning Strategies' for seniors.

<http://www.ric.edu/assessment/nsse.php>

The NSSE publishers admire RIC's using the NSSE data to create longitudinal analyses of students' level of engagement in college life. The longitudinal analyses are used by senior administrators, faculty, and staff to plan curricular and co-

curricular activities for students. The publishers cited RIC for its use of NSSE data, along with Pace University, Nazareth College, and the University of Texas at Tyler.

<http://nsse.iub.edu/pdf/NSSE%20LFF%20Transitioning%20to%20the%20Updated%20NSSE.pdf>

### Did You Know

Many departments, such as Communication, use outcomes assessment results as the basis of curricular changes? During the coming year, CASO will conduct a meta analysis of department annual reports and will prepare a report of changes made at RIC due to assessment results.

### Did You Know

RIC is conducting a survey of 1-year post-graduation alumni regarding their employment outcomes. Details to come in the spring.

## CASO - The Committee on Assessment of Student Outcomes

CASO strives to have representation from across campus, and in the past year, we have added one new member, Julie Urda (Management).

*Welcome Julie!*

<http://www.ric.edu/assessment/caso.php>

The other members of CASO are: Pat Thomas (Professor, Nursing), Nancy Cloud (Professor, Educational Studies), Lloyd Matsumoto (Professor, Biology), Scott Kane (Vice President for Student Affairs), Shani Carter, (Professor, Management)

Ron Pitt (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Becky Caouette (Associate Professor, English / Director of Writing), Christopher Hourigan (Director, Institutional Research and Planning), and Mikaila Arthur (Associate Professor, Sociology).

## Co-Curricular Assessment

For the past year, Scott Kane, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, has led a committee exploring the creation of a co-curricular transcript, that can track students' participation in co-curricular ac-

tivities and mastery of relevant developmental outcomes (e.g., Social Responsibility; Personal and Professional Development; and Multicultural Competence ). Kristen Salemi and Linda Kent-Davis now

lead the project, which will be piloted with residence hall staff this year. We will encourage students to participate in the co-curricular transcript so they can set themselves apart from their peers.

## Annual Assessment Reports: Feedback

All academic majors and programs are required to submit annual reports of their assessment activities using the template provided on the CASO web site.

The assessment activities enable departments to reflect on their learning goals and decide whether to adjust curricu-

lum, course content, or pedagogy based on student achievement on assessment measures.

Additionally, departments use assessment activities as a means to increase collaboration among faculty members.

This year, departments are being given rapid feedback on their annual reports

to enable them to make timely adjustments to their assessment programs or to their curriculum. All programs that have submitted annual reports during the spring or summer 2014 have received feedback. Departments that have yet to submit are promised to receive feedback within one week.

## Focus on Faculty: Recent Publications on Assessment

Since the 1960's, RIC faculty have been publishing journal articles on assessment activities, with almost 20 articles having been published in the last 10 years alone!

Creating journal articles based on assessment activities is an excellent method to double-count, i.e., use one activity for multiple outputs. Assistant

and Associate professors who will apply for promotion are encouraged to double-count, as have the following faculty members: Karl Benziger; Linda Capalbo; Shani Carter; Monica Darcy; Rachel Filinson; Susan Gracia; Clare Irwin; Thomas Lavin; Marie Lynch; George Metrey; John Niska; Cynthia Padula; Richard Prull; Stephen

Ramocki; Maureen Reddy; Elizabeth Rowell; Kathryn Sanders; Ezra Stieglitz; Julie Urda; and Richard Weiner.

The spring Assessment Colloquium will focus on the Double-Count process, and will be held: Tuesday, April 7, 2015, 12:30-2:00 p.m. in Alger 110.

### First Year Experience

The *First Year Experience* comprises a series of activities for first-year students, and is directed toward increasing student engagement in campus life, retention, and graduation.

Activities include Move in Day, Field Trips, and First-Year Convocation, to name a few.

For this fall, the retention rate for first-year students (N = 1,041) is 77.3%, an increase of 2% points. This is the greatest year-to-year percentage point increase in 10 years!

Currently, 24.7% of first year students are minorities, an increase from 18% in 2009.

Retention rates for students of all ethnicities are similar: White = 77%; Black = 74%; Hispanic = 76%; Asian = 75%.

## Faculty, Students, and Technology

According to the 2012 ECAR survey, RIC students would like the faculty to be more technologically savvy.

Only 53.4% of students believe all or most faculty use technology effectively, and only 51.1% believe all or most faculty use the right kinds of tech-

nology.

In regard to technology use for classes, only 52.4% of students believe all or most faculty use technology to aid understanding of course material, while 49.0% believe all or most faculty provide adequate training for

course technology.

The FCTL and User Support Services provide tutoring and workshops for faculty in technology (e.g., Blackboard) to guide faculty in using technology to improve student learning.

## NEEAN: New England Educational Assessment Network

The NEEAN Fall Forum, will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014, 8:30 AM to 3:00, PM at the College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. The Theme of the Fall Forum is: From Assessing Learning to Effecting Change.

The keynote will be given by Dr. David Dirlam, Director of Institutional Effectiveness & Accreditation, Virginia Wesleyan

College, on Tools for turning course design and learning data into educational action.

Three workshops will follow, focusing on successful implementation of Assessment practices experienced by New England Higher Education institutions. One of these workshops will be led by Stephen P. Ramocki, Ph.D., RIC Professor of Market-

ing, who will present Assessment of Creativity via Rubrics Involving Process and Output and using methods to objectively assess outputs that are qualitative by nature. See the NEEAN website for more information. <http://www.neean.org/> All faculty and administrators are welcome to attend. Send email to [scarter@ric.edu](mailto:scarter@ric.edu) to register.

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## Upcoming Conferences

There are many conferences offered throughout the year on outcomes assessment, many of which are held in New England. Funding to attend is often available via the office of the VPAA. Send email to Shani Carter at [scarter@ric.edu](mailto:scarter@ric.edu) or at [assessment@ric.edu](mailto:assessment@ric.edu) for information.

### AAC&U—Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Diversity, Learning, and Student Success 2015

March 26, 2015 - 28, 2015, San Diego, CA, [www.aacu.org](http://www.aacu.org)

### AACSB—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

Assessment Conference

March 8–10, 2015, Austin, Texas, [www.aacsb.edu](http://www.aacsb.edu)

### AERA—American Educational Research Association

Annual Meeting: Toward Justice: Culture, Language, and Heritage in Education Research and Praxis

April 16 - 20, 2015, Chicago, Illinois, [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)

### AAHLE—Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education

Annual Assessment Conference

June 1-3, 2015 Lexington, Kentucky, <http://aalhe.org>

### AIR—Association for Institutional Research

AIR Annual Forum

May 25-29, 2015 Denver, CO <http://forum.airweb.org/2015/pages/home>

### ANNY—Assessment Network of New York

TBA, Annual Conference, <http://www.oneonta.edu/anny/>

### Council of Chief State School Officers

National Summit on Educator Effectiveness

April 14-16, 2015, Atlanta, GA, LA [http://www.ccsso.org/News\\_and\\_Events/](http://www.ccsso.org/News_and_Events/)

### International Educational Technology Conference

2015 IET Conference

TBA, [www.iet-c.net](http://www.iet-c.net)

### National Institute for Testing and Evaluation, International Association for Education Assessment

IAEA Annual Conference

October 11-15, 2015, Lawrence, Kansas, <http://www.iaea.info/index.aspx>

### NEEAN—New England Educational Assessment Network

Fall Forum Information, Friday, November 7, 2014, the College of Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

Dialogues in the Disciplines, Friday, March 13, 2015, UMass Amherst, MA.

Summer Institute, Thursday & Friday, June 11 and 12, 2015, at Keene State, NH.

### NEFDC—New England Faculty Development Consortium

TBA, <https://www.nefdc.org/>

## Other Professional Organizations

Assessment Institute in Indianapolis

<http://www.assessmentinstitute.iupui.edu/index.shtml>

National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA)

<http://www.learningoutcomeassessment.org/>

Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS)

[www.cas.edu](http://www.cas.edu)

Virginia Assessment Group

<http://www.virginiaassessment.org/>