ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FORUM PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 13

CASL's annual assessment forum will be held on Tuesday, February 13. We are pleased to announce that our workshop leader will be Linda Suskie, an international leader in assessment.

Currently, Ms. Suskie is a Vice President at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Prior positions include serving as Associate Vice President for Assessment and Institutional Research at Towson University and as the Curriculunm Committee Chair. In August 2006, Ms. Suskie led a meeting on strategic planning, quality management, and consultation of multiple perspectives on interpreting assessment results. Her nearly 30 years of experience in college and university administration include work in assessment, institutional research, strategic planning, and quality management.

Ms. Suskie’s latest book, “Assessment of Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide,” was published by Anker in 2004; previous publications include Assessment to Promote Deep Learning and Questionnaire Survey Research: What Works. In addition to her writing and consulting work, she has taught graduate courses in assessment and educational research methods and undergraduate courses in writing, statistics, and developmental mathematics.

On February 13, Ms. Suskie will lead a fast-paced workshop, “Putting Assessment Results to Good and Appropriate Use.” At this workshop, participants will learn about multiple perspectives for interpreting and understanding the results of their assessment efforts and will consider the most appropriate perspectives for their own situation. They will then learn about the four key reasons for disappointing assessment results and use some scenarios and case studies to practice identifying potential uses of assessment results to improve teaching and learning.

Along with the workshop, Linda Suskie will also be meeting with representatives of the departments in college meetings. The following schedule has been established for the assessment forum, please mark your calendars:

8:00-10:50 Workshop
11:00-11:50 Lunch with CASL
12:00-12:50 Workshop
1:00-1:50 Lunch with CASL
2:00-2:50 Workshop
3:00-3:50 College of Education and Professional Studies

The workshop will be held in the Charleston-Mattoon room of the MLK Union, and the college meetings will be held in the Martinsville Room.

All faculty and staff are invited; CASL wants to encourage faculty involved with program assessment to take the opportunity to attend the workshop and college meetings. Information from the college meetings held with assessment coordinators will be shared with the speaker.

Please RSVP for the workshop to 581-6056 or kksweeney@eiu.edu.

EWP SURVEY UNDERWAY

One of CASL’s goals for AY07 is to re-examine the Electronic Writing Portfolio’s effectiveness as an assessment tool for the goal that students can write effectively. In order to solicit input from the University community, CASL has crafted a faculty survey.

With help from Danny Harvey from CATS, CASL has placed a faculty survey on the web at http://www.eiu.edu/~cats/casa/ewpSurvey/form.php. This survey will be available from November 27-1 January 12, 2006.

Although some questions are specifically geared toward those who teach writing-centered and writing-intensive courses, all faculty as well as deans and chairs are urged to take the time to complete the survey.

Information gleaned will be used in CASL’s deliberations on changes that may be made to the EWP in future months. Results will be compiled by CASL and will be shared in Spring 2007.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

From October 29-31, 2006, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis held its annual assessment institute. Seven faculty and administrators from Eastern attended this event: Jeff Ashley, Charles Eberly, Counseling and Student Development; Political Science; Karla Kennedy-Hagan, Family and Consumer Sciences; Lolita McElvee, Journalism; Lisa Newcomb, Sociology; Godson Obia, Associate Dean, College of Sciences; Rebecca Throneburg, Communication Disorders and Sciences.

In August 2006, Karla Sanders, Director, Center for Academic Support and Achievement, was invited to be the assessment day speaker at Kennedy King Community College in Chicago. KKCC is using Eastern’s assessment reporting structure as a model as it develops its own plan. Dr. Sanders will also serve on its assessment advisory board.

If you have participated in an assessment activity such as attending an assessment conference, publishing on assessment topics, or acting as a consultant, please send this information to Karla Sanders at kjsanders@eiu.edu for inclusion in the next newsletter.