Dear All,

What a pleasure it was to welcome Dr. Peter Facione to our campus. As one of the authors of the California Critical Thinking Skills Test and the Provost of Loyola University, Dr. Facione aptly used his expertise to give us hands-on examples of how to increase critical thinking skills in our classes. His presentation was lively and informative. Thank you for attending this special event.

The Assessment Committee is now preparing for our spring assessment activities. We plan to administer the Community College Survey of Student Engagement during assessment week which will occur in early March, 2005. Many faculty members will be asked to participate in administering this survey. More information will be coming your way. Stay tuned!

Ellen Eason-Montgomery and Amanda Loos recently attended a conference on Diversity in Nashville, Tennessee. They came back armed with vital information for the Committee. They presented their findings at the November 17 meeting. One of their suggestions was for the diversity cross-disciplinary committee to develop a “Climate Survey” to assess diversity issues on campus. This subcommittee is looking for new participants. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Ellen Eason-Montgomery at eeason-montgomery@ccc.edu or Amanda Loos at alooos@ccc.edu.

Until Next Month,

Committee Meeting Highlights

- The committee reviewed and approved a final version of the Assessment Committee Charge
- The committee approved the college’s participation in the CCSSE as well as in two consortium associated with the CCSSE, the Illinois Community Colleges Consortium and the HACU/HIS Consortium.
- The committee approved the administration of the faculty portion of the CCSSE.
A Sharpened Focus on Learning

Community colleges have long distinguished themselves through their efforts to put students first and their emphasis on teaching and learning. Innovations in curriculum, teaching strategies, and support services for students are hallmarks of these institutions. Yet while community colleges often pioneer new strategies, they don't have sufficient access to tools that help them assess their initiatives and measure their progress toward key goals.

Today, community colleges are being asked to rise to new challenges. Across the country, community colleges must respond to the increasing expectations for quality, performance, and accountability set by governing boards, state and federal governments, accrediting organizations, and the public. Key among those expectations is that colleges should emphasize assessment and improvement of student retention and student learning.

To respond effectively to these challenges, community and technical colleges need assessment tools appropriate to their unique missions and the characteristics of their diverse student populations. The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) is meeting that need.

Source: www.ccsse.org

Dates To Remember

December 8, 2004—Assessment Committee Meeting 3-4PM Room 1030
December 15, 2004—Assessment Committee Meeting 3-4PM Room 1030
December 20, 2004-January 3, 2005—Winter Vacation
January 5, 2005—Assessment Committee Meeting 3-4PM Room 1030