



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

Harold Washington

Education that Works

The Assessment Times For Students Spring, 2014

From the Chair

Dear HW Students,

I am so pleased to be able to report on the main activities and achievements of the Assessment Committee from this semester. We are very excited to share the results of the Human Diversity Assessment with you which we completed in 2012. Next week take a look around campus, and you will find a folded brochure filled with interesting and compelling data revealing students' feelings and experiences in regards to Human Diversity at Harold Washington College. In addition, we are working on creating a presentation of quotes from students that will be showcased on the LCD screens around campus. Look for those when you register for your fall classes. If you are interested in the full report, it can be found on the Harold Washington website under Academics and Assessment.

There are many things to celebrate at HWC but this semester, I for one, am celebrating the growing acceptance of Human Diversity shown by our students and faculty as revealed by this assessment.

The Assessment Committee is currently compiling and analyzing the results of the Oral Communication Assessment that took place in the fall. Some of you may have participated when you gave an oral presentation in one of your courses. The early results are beginning to emerge. Over the summer, I will be writing a report based on the data which will be shared with you next year. A hearty thanks to those who participated in this very important assessment.

In the fall, we will be assessing the general education learning outcome concerning Information Literacy. This assessment is designed to uncover the ways in which

students conduct research, evaluate resources, and use the library. You may be asked to participate via one of your instructors. I think you will find it very interesting.

I hope you all have a restful and restorative summer. Thank you for making HWC such a great place to teach.

Human Diversity Assessment Results

One of the college's general education goals regarding human diversity is for our students to understand and respect human diversity. An assessment of this goal was performed in 2012. Part of this assessment was to determine how much discrimination students encountered on campus. Again, while looking at these results we are not just interested in learning about how much discrimination, but what affects these data. One variable that we looked at was the degree of interaction with other ethnic, religious, or social groups. So, what do you think: do you think the amount of discrimination student's encounter increases or decreases when they interact with more students of different backgrounds? If you said decrease, you would be correct. Students who interact with students of different backgrounds feel less discriminated against. Findings such as these are not always intuitive, but they are always useful and I can guarantee our creative faculty and administration will find ways to utilize them to the fullest.

Other Assessment

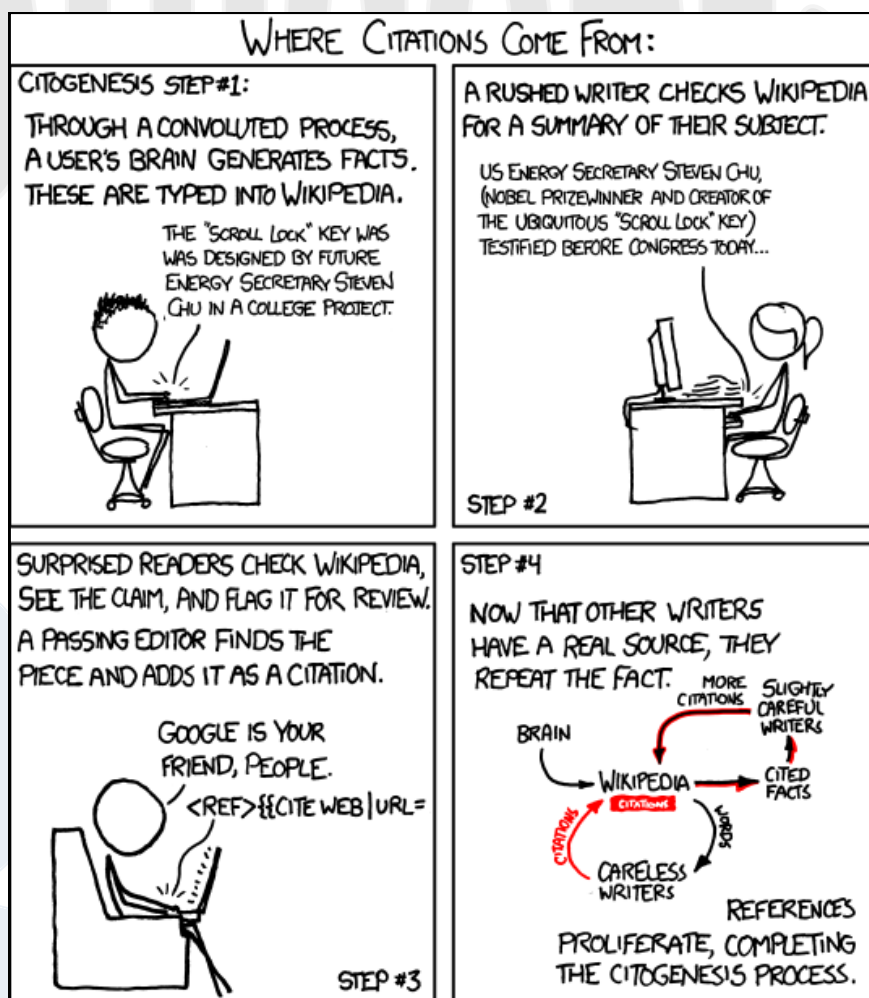
Did you know that best practices in teaching and learning requires on-going, cyclical, and systematic assessment at each level of institution: course level, unit, level, discipline level, department level, and college level? We at HWC are working to ensure that is what is happening throughout the college. To that end, our Unit Level Assessment Team has now completed its second year of assessing learning in three departments; Humanities, Applied Sciences, and Art/Architecture.

The Humanities and Music department has developed an assessment for music performance. They created a tool designed to assess how students completing all levels of Applied Music (music performance) courses are performing relative to that outcome. The group created a descriptive rubric that will be used to assess the juried exams that occur at the end of the semester, thus generating meaningful data about student learning and performance in every dimension of the outcome. They are looking forward to learning about where their students are succeeding as well as where they are struggling so that they can better support student learning at all levels as they progress through these programs.

The Applied Science Department developed department-level student learning outcomes focused on writing Across the Curriculum/Writing in the Disciplines. The goal for this semester was to assess writing across all programs within the department. This assessment process really takes place behind the scenes, as the faculty in this department are looking closely at student writing and developing ways to support students as they continue to develop specific writing skills necessary for the workforce in these fields.

The departmental level assessment taking place in Art and Architecture is at the individual course level. Currently Art 144, 2D Design has an

assessment that looks at how well students are able to understand and apply the use of 1-point perspective, 2-point perspective and isometric projection. These are core skills that students need to do well in the studio classes. The assessment in Art 131 General Drawing class measures how all the skills learned through the semester are applied to drawing a still life with a variety of challenging objects. This assessment has run for 3 semesters in a row as well and the results have helped instructors know which skills were learned well and which ones need reinforcement. The long-term goal is for all the courses in the Department of Art and Architecture to have some type of assessments to measure student success. In pursuit of this goal, there will be pilot assessments in Beginning Ceramics and 3D Design this semester.



Source: <http://www.xkcd.com/>

The Assessment Committee is made up of faculty, administrators, and professional staff. We are always looking for more interested members, including students. If you have any questions about becoming a member of the committee or about anything else concerning assessment at HWC, please contact Jennifer Asimow, Chair @ jasimow@ccc.edu (office 712) or Ray Tse, Vice-Chair @ ktse@ccc.edu.