ASSESSING LEARNING

New SLO tool promises integration and ease-of-use for Columbia

by LESLIE BUCKALEW

Good news! We are in the process of moving to a new SLO tool. Modesto Junior College and Columbia College are both in the process of implementing the SLO solution, eLumen. This integrated, user-friendly system is easy to use and will provide a cloud-based approach to outcomes assessment and concise reports to support our accreditation self-study. Columbia will be able to collect, manage, and report outcomes “per student” and “per course.”

A CLEAR NEED
As colleges across the country have attempted to respond to learning-centered accreditation standards, a clear need for a sophisticated and elegant assessment tool has come into focus nationwide.

eLumen’s integrated platform is the direct response to twenty years of academic inquiry into learning assessment at the community college and university level. Additionally, eLumen is designed to generate data in direct response to accreditation standards. Most importantly, eLumen will provide meaningful insight on student learning.

LUMINARIES WEIGH IN
Many experts in the field of assessment have seen great promise in the system’s capabilities

Continued on page 3
Now that administrative offices have returned to the Manzanita Building, you can once again access your instructional supplies by visiting the Student Learning Office between the hours of 8:00am-4:30pm.

WHAT’S IN STOCK FOR YOU
The Student Learning office is pleased to provide items such as dry erase markers, Post-It® notes, binder clips, and ink cartridges for your faculty office. Abby Sunday will be providing a comprehensive list of all regular items to faculty at the start of the academic year. If there is a particular item that you need that is not listed, please let her know.

TEACHING AT NIGHT?
If you are only on campus in the evening, please email a list of your desired supplies to Abby Sunday at sundaya@yosemite.edu in advance. The items will be placed in your campus mailbox. You may also call her at 588.5381 with your request.

FELI promises to transform our own
by MICHELLE VIDAURRI

Columbia College’s SSSP allocation has provided an opportunity to bring a professional development training to the campus which allows 25 participants to benefit from what is said to be a “transformative experience.”

The Academy for College Excellence (ACE) will be facilitating the Five Day Experiential Learning Institute (FELI) in a compressed 4 day work week schedule during August 3 – 6, 2015. This training is designed for community college faculty, staff, and administrators with topics including the laws of communication, listening techniques, the identification of working and communication styles, and the construction and participative elements of a cohesive work team.

The FELI comes highly recommended from peers, as well as our own faculty, Alicia Kolstad and Anne Cavagnaro who attended in 2014. Kolstad and Cavagnaro both implemented the philosophies and techniques gained from their FELI experience into their instruction and coordination of the First Semester Experience (a Columbia College learning cohort) and reaped valuable rewards.

The rewards are evidenced in their increased retention and persistence rates. Confirmed attendees are a balance of Classified Staff, Instructors, Student Service Faculty as well as Administrators, who will be sharing their experience with the campus community upon completion.

To learn more about FELI, visit:
http://academyforcollegeexcellence.org/feli/

FELI has shown me that what students care most about is heart: whether or not they open it depends on the college culture’s ability to recognize what a beating heart sounds and feels like.

-Tom  
FELI participant

by ABBY SUNDAY

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**Like This!**

Student Learning has a Facebook page!

**by Michelle Vidaurri**

If social networking has your interest, you may have noticed the Student Learning Office has created a hub to share information relating to the course schedule and opportunities to enroll.

Many faculty have been promoting their courses independently and have achieved successful results. The Columbia College Student Learning Facebook page will act as a central point for sharing course information to various networks.

You may simply post your course or program information to our page, or as your information is published on your own page, it will be shared by us to boost the visibility. The page was activated at the start of the summer semester and has gained momentum quickly.

The most recent and notable post announced the opening of the Manzanita building and Welcome Center. This particular announcement that also encouraged the public to enroll for fall reached 789 people in less than two days.

If you have a new program or class that you would like to feature, or simply need to boost a class that is slow to fill, visit our page! If you are not a Facebook fan, but would still like to reach the community just let us know and we will be happy to share. "Like" our page at www.facebook.com/CCStudentLearning

**Assessing Learning (Continued from page 1)**

...and believe eLumen is poised to support outcomes assessment in a meaningful and efficient way. Terri O’Banion, President Emeritus of the League for Innovation in the Community College, eloquently acknowledged the challenges colleges have faced in responding to the assessment paradigm, “I knew that framing student success in terms of learning outcomes was a significant improvement over the traditional grading system, but I always thought that creating, embedding, assessing, and documenting learning outcomes was too difficult and time consuming for our faculty and our colleges.” After witnessing eLumen’s capabilities, O’Banion was impressed, “When I saw what eLumen could do, I knew we had a solution: now we can move forward with real and deep learning and even make it work alongside traditional grading.”

John Tagg, co-author of the seminal article “From Teaching to Learning – A new paradigm for undergraduate education” in the November 1995 issue of Change magazine, has stated, “Here, finally, is a way that colleges can systematically focus on student learning.”

**Thanks to Our Own**

Many thanks to the SLO Mentors; Paula Clarke, Randy Barton, and Raelene Juarez; and Deans Torok and Sullivan for meeting this summer to discuss our move to the new tool. We will be sending an informational letter about accessing and using the new tool in the weeks to come.

Learn more about eLumen at http://elumen.info.

**Other Resources**

An excellent resource from the National Institute of Learning Outcomes may be helpful as you create your SLOs during the coming year: http://www.learningoutcomesassessment.org/SLOSresources.html
Curriculum Corner

Gearing up for the 2015 ASCCC Curriculum Institute

by LETITIA SENECHAL MILLER

As the summer term reaches its peak, a small team from Columbia College prepares for a pivotal event in the academic year: the annual Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC) Curriculum Institute.

Columbia’s attendees for 2015 will be Kathy Schultz, Curriculum Chair; Leslie Buckalew, Vice President of Student Learning; and Letitia Senechal Miller, Curriculum Process Specialist.

Attendance at the Curriculum Institute is essential preparation for the upcoming curricular year. Faculty leaders from across the state, as well as representatives from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office gather to deliver comprehensive presentations that include news and insights on present and forthcoming changes in regulations, policies, and systems. Many who attend report feeling much more empowered and informed to help their campuses proactively respond to incoming changes in Title 5, legislation, and statewide curriculum management systems.

The Curriculum Institute dialog is not unilateral. It presents opportunities for colleges to collaborate and report back to stakeholders on the efficacy and impacts of various initiatives and systems.

While colleges share the challenge of meeting the same expectations for curriculum standards, approval, compliance and governance, the means of meeting those expectations vary from college to college. This concept of “local control” is fundamental for faculty and our 10+1.

Participants frequently gain insights and solutions from other colleges, and positively impact other campuses by sharing ideas as well. Additionally, statewide themes often emerge from the colleges about the local impacts of newer regulations, processes, and systems. These themes provide the ASCCC and CCCCQ invaluable insight as to what is working and what might be improved.

Your questions matter. If you have curricular questions that you would like to have aired in this statewide forum, please email your question to the team members by July 8, 2014.

Questions about curriculum? Contact us.
Kathy Schultz: schultzk@yosemite.edu
Letitia Senechal Miller: millerle@yosemite.edu
Leslie Buckalew: buckalewl@yosemite.edu

BREAKOUT SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- Innovations in Curriculum: Lecture and Lab
- Demystifying the Relationship Between Units and Hours
- Outcomes or Objectives: What’s the difference?
- Building a Fitness Foundation: Noncredit Curriculum Development
- Student Learning Outcomes, Assessment and the Curricular Process
- Curriculum Innovations: Civic Engagement Across the Curriculum
- Ensuring Qualified Faculty for All Courses: The Disciplines List and Assigning Courses
- Interacting with Local Senates
- Credit Course Repetition and the Impact of the Regulations
- (CTE) Curriculum Efficiency: Idea to Approval
- Low Unit Certificate Approval and Standalone Courses
- Innovation in Curriculum: Trends in English/Reading models
- Is More Always Better? The Challenge of Unit Creep and Rising Contact Hours