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IN THE SPOTLIGHT~ EXCELLENCE IN ASSESSMENT

BSU Receives National Recognition for Excellence in Assessment



Pictured above: current and former members of the University Student Learning Assessment Committee (USLAC), a faculty senate committee

In late summer 2018, Bowie State University was recognized as one of five higher education institutions named as a 2018 Excellence in Assessment (EIA) designee. This designation spotlights institutions that successfully integrate assessment practices across campus; provide evidence of student learning; and use assessment results to guide institutional decision-making and improve student performance.

The five 2018 colleges and universities join a total of only 20 others receiving this designation since 2016. Bowie State is the first Maryland four-year institution and the first HBCU in the nation to receive this designation,.

The national designation was created to acknowledge the important work colleges and universities are doing through comprehensive assessment activities and highlight them as best practices for other institutions. The EIA program's sponsors are the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA), led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), in partnership with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA).

Led by Dr. Becky Verzinski and the Center for Academic Programs Assessment (CAPA), Bowie State collected and analyzed a broad range of assessment data, while working with internal and external stakeholders. Faculty and students also participated in a variety of assessment activities, and the center provided faculty development resources online. The application process for the Excellence in Assessment designation included a rigorous and systematic self-study. In this application process, BSU demonstrated how aligned processes, building from classroom-based assessment, foster a coherent, collaborative approach to assessing student learning.

"The Excellence in Assessment Designation is the first national, jointly sponsored designation to recognize institutions moving assessment of student learning from a compliance exercise to one of meaningful engagement. It highlights the use of evidence of student learning across the entirety of the university setting, involving a variety of stakeholders," said Natasha Jankowski, NILOA Director.



On The Horizon:

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) self-study kick-off will be on Thursday, February 7, 2019. The MSCHE Executive Committee, Makeba Green, Gail Medford, Gayle Fink (accreditation liaison), and Becky Verzinski will lead the university's efforts in completing the self-study along with the Steering Committee comprised of faculty members. staff members, and student representatives from the SGA and GSA. The MSCHE self-study visit will occur in spring 2021. More information can be found on the 2021 Self-Study webpage at: https://bowiestate.edu/about/ administration-and-governance/ division-of-academicaffairs/2021-middle-states-selfstudy/affairs/2021-middle-statesself-study/

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ \bigstar \bigstar "Success is not ☆ \bigstar final, failure is not ☆ \bigstar fatal: it is the ☆ ☆ courage to \bigstar \bigstar continue that counts." ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ~Winston Churchill, ☆ ☆ Former British Prime \bigstar \bigstar Minister ☆ ☆ $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$



BSU Faculty/Staff Attend Drexel Univ. Assessment Conference

BSU Faculty and Staff Investigate New Ways to Assess Internships

In mid-September, eight BSU faculty members and assessment staff members attended the Drexel University Assessment Conference in Philadelphia, PA, entitled "Leading A Collaborative Revolution for Change." Their attendance at the conference was funded as a part of a BSU Title III grant for standardizing internships and internship assessments. All faculty who participated are instructors of internships or field experiences From the conference sessions, they were able to gather information about best practices in assessment, which they brought back to BSU and presented at a variety of professional development sessions as well as their departmental meetings.

The attendees from the university were Dr. Becky Verzinski, Assistance Vice President for Assessment; Ms. Lynn Harbinson, Assessment Coordinator, both with the Center for Academic Programs Assessment; Dr. Rochelle Daniel, Instructor, Department of Communications; Dr. Karima Haynes, Assistant Professor, Department of Communications; Dr. Charles Adams, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Science and Human Services; Dr. Charla McKinzie-Bishop, Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Science and Human Services; Dr. Matasha Harris, Associate Professor, Department of Behavioral Science and Human Services; and Mr. Art Vidrine, Assistant Professor, Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

The Drexel University conference, which is in its fifth year, attracted 420 participants from 30 states and several countries, is highly-regarded as an assessment conference in higher education. Drexel University has been at the forefront for offering internships and other forms of experiential learning for 100+ years, so this conference was a particularly good match for the work of the group from Bowie State University.

In addition to many interesting sessions, the participants had the opportunity to socialize with several after-conference events. A particular highlight for the BSU team was going to the Betsy Ross House and Museum in downtown Philadelphia, where they enjoyed socializing with others from the conference, and "meeting" Betsy Ross and George Washington, who kindly posed for a group picture! BSU conference attendees hope to attend this conference again, perhaps as presenters, to share BSU's best practices in internship assessment.

Thanks to the Title III Office for providing grant funding for this most worthwhile professional development event!

Pictured below: BSU faculty and staff who attended the 2018 Drexel University Assessment Conference in Philadelphia, PA



