2015 Assessment Institute
Highlights about NILOA’s Track

The 2015 Assessment Institute provides opportunities for (1) individuals and campus teams new to outcomes assessment to acquire fundamental knowledge about the field, (2) individuals who have worked as leaders in outcomes assessment to share and extend their knowledge and skills, and (3) those interested in outcomes assessment at any level to establish networks that serve as sources of support and expertise beyond the dates of the Institute. George Kuh, NILOA Co-Principal Investigator, Peter Ewell, NILOA Senior Scholar, and colleagues will participate in the opening Plenary Panel (Monday, October 26 at 8:45-10:00am). In addition, George Kuh and Clifford Adelman, Senior Associate with the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), will be the keynote speakers of the NILOA Track discussing A Bane with Disciplined Fixes: Writing Learning Outcomes Statements (Monday, October 26 at 10:15-11:15am).

Sunday, October 25, 9:00am - Pat Hutchings, Elise Martin, Sandra Bailey, and Kacy Lundstrom will hold a pre-institute session. Workshop leaders will share the interactive assignment-design model used by faculty in that initiative, explore how that model can be adapted to local campus circumstances, and share tools and strategies to support campus-based work on assignment design.

Monday, October 26, 12:30-1:30pm - Peter Ewell, Julia Brookins, Brad Mello, and Elise Martin will present Developing Meaningful, Operational Learning Outcome Statements. The panel session will explore the implications of the ideas and challenges offered in the NILOA track keynote about the importance of operational learning outcome statements.

Monday, October 26, 1:45-2:45pm - Paul Gaston, Natasha Jankowski, Jillian Kinzie, and David Marshall will present Better Ingredients. Better Pizza (Stronger Outcomes. Improved Assessment). In this Town Hall session, individuals involved with helping implement the DQP and Tuning will ask participants to consider vital questions related to assessment. For example, how suitable are Tuning materials and the DQP for use by assessment leaders? What might be done to make them more useful? Are there success stories concerning Tuning and/or the DQP that might be helpful to others?

Monday, October 26, 3:15-4:15pm - Pat Hutchings, Laura Gambino, and Karan Powell will present Embedding Assessment in the Design of Effective Assignments. This session, drawing on NILOA’s Assignment Library Initiative, features several models that have been used to provide such support, and will explore challenges, what works, and resources for getting started with an assignment design initiative on your campus.
Monday, October 26, 4:30-5:30pm - Laura Giffin and Erika Hackman will present Supporting Community College Faculty and Administrator Engagement in Learning Outcomes Assessment: Updates from the Field. Presenters will consider how assessment work in the two-year sector has changed during the past few years, informed in part by the results of the 2013 NILOA Provost Survey on assessment practices in higher education.

Tuesday, October 27, 10:15-11:15am - Paul Lingenfelter, Ellen Baker Derwin, and Deborah Seymour will present Competency-Based Education: Has this idea’s time come. This panel session will consider the fundamental arguments for granting credit for competency, the educational and administrative incompetencies that are retarding the widespread adoption of this logical idea, and the advances that are now occurring to address this dilemma.

Tuesday, October 27, 11:30am-12:30pm - Natasha Jankowski, Erick Montenegro, and Andres Castro Samoaya will present The Role and Importance of Student Learning Outcomes: Assessment at Minority-Serving Institutions. The presentation will illustrate assessment practices at MSIs and how these compare with those at other types of institutions. Special attention will be given to the kinds of assessment approaches that best address the learning goals of different types of institutions and various student groups.

Tuesday, October 27, 2:00-3:00pm - Natasha Jankowski, Teri Hinds, and Paul Klute will present Communicating Campus Assessment Work: The VSA EIA Designation Program. This session will explain the VSA’s Excellence in Assessment (EIA) Designation program designed to recognize campuses that are successfully integrating assessment practices across the entire campus and sharing evidence of outcomes from their institution publically.

Tuesday, October 27, 3:15-4:15pm - Carrie Allen and John Savagian will present Learning from Others: Designing Assessment Practice to Fit Your Institution. This session presents an overview of Alverno College’s assessment endeavors, its current practices, and suggestions for how lessons learned over decades by Alverno can be instructive for other institutions.