

TASL Workshop I Summary

The first TASL workshop was held January 21, 2005 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at Temple College. Nineteen participants from eleven college campuses across Texas attended the workshop. Participating colleges included Temple College, San Antonio College, McLennan Community College, DeVry University, Blinn college, Brazosport College, Tarrant County College, Western Texas College, Houston Community College System, Central Texas College and Victoria College.

Using a Participant Questionnaire completed by participants prior to attending the workshop, the project director ascertained the participants' levels of knowledge regarding SACS initiatives and Quality Enhancement Plans, familiarity with what other colleges are doing, and specific areas of interest. These results were discussed at the workshop. In addition, activities such as small group work, interaction with local experts and presentations with open discussion were also included in the day's agenda.

The day began with an introduction by Dr. Sharon Pate, Project Director, followed with a presentation titled "The Nine Principles of Assessment". In the presentation, Dr. Pate discussed the relevance of each of AAHE's nine principles, including real examples of application across the U.S. A prioritizing tool, the Nominal Group Technique, was introduced and practiced by small groups to identify topics for development on their campuses.

Individual introductions were made by all participants. Each person also used a piece of fruit as a metaphor to describe "assessment" on their campus. A brief, working lunch followed this activity. Participants networked and perused research posters regarding Classroom Assessment Techniques, Faculty Participation, and relevant quotations by practitioners in the field of assessment.

Dr. Loraine Phillips, Director of Program Evaluation & SACS Director of QEP presented an in-depth review of compliance and QEP issues titled "SACS Compliance and QEP 101". She also led discussions relevant to these topics.

Dr. Bernadette Hence, Executive Director, Special Projects, Galveston College, and Texas Leadership Alliance and Academy, spoke about the leadership project and "Managing Change". She shared with the group information about how to access the project's current website and spoke of future "webinars" to be developed.

Participants separated into small interest groups to discuss the topics they identified as important to the development of QEPs on their campuses. Each group reported a plan of action related to their topic. The topics chosen were: (1) staffing, (2) developmental studies, (3) instructional strategies, and (4) exit competencies.

Dr. Pate closed the workshop with a discussion about taking information back to participants' home campuses or programs, taking the next steps in assessment, the development of QEPs and thinking about Workshop II in late spring. Dr. Pate also discussed the assessment plan for the workshop series and encouraged participants to reflect while completing the assessment instruments.

TASL Workshop I was concluded with congratulations to the participants for their productive work during the day. A follow-up email has been sent to all participants to garner feedback for Workshop II.