



# FORTNIGHT

Volume 1, Issue 1

Late September 2008

A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

## WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. According to the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the term is derived from the Old English *feorwertne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights."

Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle which we plan to distribute online and via hard copy to the campus community. The communiqué will generally be limited to one double-sided page in length. Given the amount of information that we look forward to sharing, a fortnight (rather than weekly or monthly) seemed to be the right interval between communiqués. Warrick Bell, Coordinator of Institutional Research, is to be credited for the title concept – a nod to his Commonwealth roots.

Distribution of **FORTNIGHT** will expand gradually. Initial issues will be sent to department chairs, Departmental Assessment Committee representatives who have been identified, administrators and others upon request. As we revise the College web presence devoted to assessment topics and develop our graphics, **FORTNIGHT** will be archived on the website.

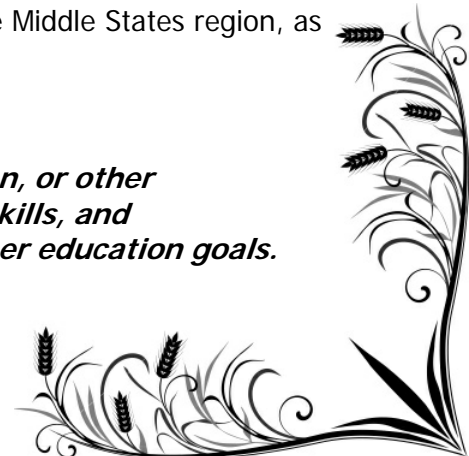
## WHAT IS MIDDLE STATES STANDARD 14?

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education ([www.msche.org](http://www.msche.org)) is a non-governmental, voluntary membership association that accredits degree-granting institutions in the Middle States region, which includes New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and some international institutions.

There are 14 accreditation standards that need to be met in order to receive and maintain accreditation. Standard 14 focuses on the assessment of student learning. This standard is the subject of much discussion among university assessment professionals in the Middle States region, as requirements associated with it appear to be increasing.

Standard 14 reads:

***Assessment of student learning demonstrates that, at graduation, or other appropriate points, the institution's students have knowledge, skills, and competencies consistent with institutional and appropriate higher education goals.***



## COLLEGE UPDATES

### Division of Humanities and Social Science

Business: Interim Associate Provost Susan Holak was invited to the September department meeting to discuss assessment and accreditation.

Media Culture: Professor Edward Miller was named as departmental assessment liaison.

SASW: A Departmental Assessment Committee made up of Professors Rafael de la Dehesa, David Goode and Grace Mitchell has been formed.

### Curriculum Committee

During the September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, Professor John Oppenheimer (Biology) presented an analysis of test items broken down by specific subject-matter from his BIO 180 sections, and Professor Brian Carolan (Education) shared his department's practices related to developing and implementing assessment rubrics. If you would like more information on these topics, please contact John at ext. 3921 or Brian at ext. 4132.

## CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

The University-wide Assessment Council meets monthly to discuss issues related to outcomes assessment, measurement, and Middle States; Warrick Bell represents the College of Staten Island. Warrick is also co-chairing the Council's annual joint Assessment/Testing/Institutional Research retreat, which has as its theme this year "Navigating the Assessment Jungle." The event is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup> at Hostos Community College. Spaces allocated to each campus are limited; however, if you are interested in learning more about it, please contact Warrick at ext. 2086 or via email at [bell@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:bell@mail.csi.cuny.edu).

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

Dr. Linda Suskie, Vice President of Middle States and author of *Assessing Student Learning: A Common Sense Guide* (Anker, 2004), conducted an assessment workshop at the College of Staten Island in March 2007. Dr. Suskie's PowerPoint presentations as well as DVDs of her seminars are available through the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment for review. Please contact Warrick Bell at ext. 2086 or via email at [bell@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:bell@mail.csi.cuny.edu) if you would like more information.

## FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

British Food Fortnight is going on now: [www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk](http://www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk)

Members of the College community are invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **October 10, 2008**, for consideration to appear in a future communiqué.

