



# FORTNIGHT

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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 and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

[www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment)

## WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne 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 is distributed online to the campus community. Prior issues are available on the Office of the Associate Provost website, at [www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment)

## SPRING 2009 COLLEGE-WIDE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MILESTONES: MISSION STATEMENTS, PROGRAM GOALS, AND CURRICULUM MAPPING

Members of the College-wide Assessment Committee who represent each of the academic departments have been focusing on some key milestone assignments this semester, as they organize and lead their colleagues in assessment activities. Most departments have approved a **mission statement**, which typically reflects their stakeholders, the department’s purpose, and the ways in which the department contributes to the careers or future opportunities of its graduates. When approved, departments have been authorizing the publication of their mission statement in The Assessment Matrix which appears on the Office of the Associate Provost website ([www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment)). The Assessment Matrix contains frequently updated information about department assessment milestones, including program goals, and recent program self-study dates.

College-wide Assessment Committee liaisons are advancing their departments’ efforts to develop **program goals** – broad statements of student learning that link the department’s mission to more specific learning objectives. Many departments are finding the Department Assessment Schematics composed by the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) to be helpful when establishing program goals. To facilitate the efforts of departments to set outcomes, during its last meeting the College-wide Assessment Committee initiated a discussion of Bloom’s Taxonomy of Learning, a framework commonly used for articulating learning goals and objectives. The committee plans to continue its conversation about the six levels of cognition in Bloom’s classification during its next meeting, scheduled for April 29. The interested reader can find additional resources about Bloom’s Taxonomy on the Associate Provost’s website.

Several departments are now engaging in the process of **curriculum mapping**, in which the student learning objectives from individual courses are linked to specific program goals. This process presents a good opportunity to review the ways in which courses contribute to learning in a major, the coverage of key concepts and topics throughout a curriculum, and the options that students have to master information during their degree program.

In addition to these assessment “milestones,” the College-wide Assessment Committee has also had information literacy as a focus during its spring 2009 meetings. Departments have been making significant progress this semester towards assessing student learning outcomes and documenting library-related activities in courses. As summer approaches, we expect to build upon this momentum as departments delve into special assessment-related projects.



## CSI ANNUAL DAY OF ASSESSMENT: FINAL REMINDER

The CSI Annual Day of Assessment, scheduled from 9am - 4pm on Friday, April 24, will feature presentations from academic departments, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and the Office of Academic Affairs. Dr. Paul Arcario, Dean for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Cecilia Macheski, Chair of Curriculum and Assessment, both at LaGuardia Community College, will join CSI faculty and staff on the program. We are pleased to report that colleagues from other CUNY colleges including BMCC, City College, Lehman College, and Medgar Evers College will be our guests for the event. In addition to the five presentations focusing on different aspects of assessment and institutional effectiveness, Alan Hoffner is planning a lunchtime activity which promises to be instructional and entertaining. If you are planning to attend some or all of the event, we urge you to RSVP as soon as possible to Robin Cavagnaro in the Office of Testing, at [robin.cavagnaro@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:robin.cavagnaro@csi.cuny.edu) or by phone at ext. 2360. Seating is limited. If you have dietary restrictions or will not be able to attend the luncheon, we would appreciate it if you would mention these items when registering. A full agenda for the day is available at [www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment/doa.html](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment/doa.html)

## CAMPUS UPDATES: BUSINESS DEPARTMENT EXIT SURVEY

Exit surveys can provide valuable assessment information, as graduating students reflect upon their recent experiences on campus. Professors Rosane Gertner and Tom Tellefsen, both in the marketing area within the Business Department, have been working for the past year on a very comprehensive process to evaluate and revise their department's exit survey. Taking an instrument created in 2007 as a starting point, Dr. Gertner and her colleagues developed a list of 100 questions that was administered to students in a pilot study, to determine which issues and aspects of the business department's education experience were most important to them. Feedback from 92 respondents was used to design a new survey that solicits information about such topics as interaction with faculty, advisement in the department, program content, and mastery of concepts and information. The new survey is ready for implementation this spring. We look forward to hearing more about the department's survey efforts, and hope to see more about this work at a future CSI Day of Assessment.

## CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

CUNY's 5th Annual Gen Ed Conference will take place on Friday, May 8, 2009, from 8:30 am – 5 pm in various venues on the Lehman College campus. Marc Prensky, author of *Digital Game-Based Learning* (McGraw-Hill 2001) will be the keynote speaker at the event. His presentation, "Educating Today's 'Digital Native' Learners," highlights this year's conference theme, focusing on the teaching of millennial learners. The conference is organized into morning and afternoon forums, featuring tracks on ePortfolios, digital learning, learning communities, and assessment. CSI Provost William Fritz will speak during the morning session on his experiences and successes with the learning communities at Georgia State University. We would like to have a contingent from our College attend this Lehman event. For more details about the Gen Ed Conference and registration information, please refer to the conference website at [www.lehman.edu/lehman/gen-ed-conference](http://www.lehman.edu/lehman/gen-ed-conference).

## FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

The habits of the Fish Hawk (aka Osprey) resonate with the FORTNIGHT staff. We invite our readers to share in our surprise. [www.audubon.org/bird/BoA/F2\\_G5a.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/BoA/F2_G5a.html)

"[The Osprey] arrives in the **Middle States** about the **beginning of April**, and returns southward at the first appearance of frost. ... In a **fortnight** the nest is complete, and the female deposits her eggs, which are three or four in number, of a broadly oval form, yellowish-white, densely covered with large irregular spots of reddish-brown."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **April 24, 2009**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

