



FORTNIGHT

Volume 3, Issue 1

Mid September 2009

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

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.

SUMMER RECAP AND A LOOK AHEAD TO 2009-2010

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year! We hope that our readers have enjoyed the summer months. The pace in the Office of the Associate Provost and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) remained high during the break; our Middle States self-study is fast approaching. Our process begins “officially” this November, when Associate Provost Susan Holak and OIRA Coordinator Warrick Bell represent the College at the mandatory Middle States Workshop for institutions expecting to host evaluation teams in 2011-2012.

The Strategic Planning Process that we reported on in **FORTNIGHT** (Volume 2, Issues 3, 4, 6, & 7) progressed over the summer, as members of the Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) put the finishing touches on a Request for Proposals, reviewed responses, and interviewed finalist consulting firms. This process will be very important in driving our Middle States self-study (see below).

Two major projects made substantial progress with the efforts of the Office of the Associate Provost and the OIRA during the summer months. In an effort to streamline the self-study process for academic programs, a systematized repository and calendar were instituted in the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

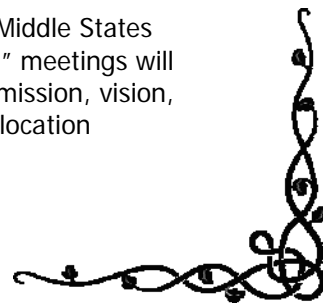
During the inaugural year of this communiqué, 14 issues of **FORTNIGHT** were produced. We anticipate that Volumes 3 and 4 (fall and spring semesters) will, appropriately, have the same number. We will be presenting each of the fourteen Middle States standards in **FORTNIGHT**— one per issue. During the fall semester, we will feature the first seven, which pertain to institutional context; the spring term will be dedicated to presenting Standards 8-14 on educational effectiveness. In addition, we plan to share instances and examples of assessment and evidence-based decision-making being brought full-circle, in a section on “Closing the Loop.”

PREPARING FOR THE MIDDLE STATES SELF-STUDY: STANDARD 1

Standard 1: Mission and Goals

The institution's mission clearly defines its purpose within the context of higher education and indicates who the institution serves and what it intends to accomplish. The institution's stated goals, consistent with the aspirations and expectations of higher education, clearly specify how the institution will fulfill its mission. The mission and goals are developed and recognized by the institution with the participation of its members and its governing body and are used to develop and shape its programs and practices and to evaluate its effectiveness.

As noted above, the Strategic Planning Process about to get underway directly addresses the first Middle States standard. Meetings planned with chairs, focus groups for many constituent groups, and “town hall” meetings will provide opportunities for input and feedback from the entire campus community, resulting in new mission, vision, and values statements. These statements will guide the College's decision-making and resource allocation processes for the next several years.



CLOSING THE LOOP: CURRICULUM CHANGES IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE & PHYSICS

As a result of the assessment process of continuous program improvement required by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), the Department of Engineering Science & Physics made certain changes in the curriculum to strengthen the foundation in engineering fundamentals and in engineering analysis and design. We congratulate the department on the successful reaccreditation of the BS Degree in Engineering Science!

COLLEGE UPDATES

The Career & Scholarship Office annual placement surveys (from 2006-2007 and 2007-2008) provided self-reported data on jobs obtained by CSI alumni, necessary to meet requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (H.R. 4137). This act states that institutions must report information on the placement and employment of graduates from degree and certificate programs. We invite you to view a presentation of the impressive survey results at www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment/postgrad.html.

CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS

The CUNY IR Council – Warrick Bell, Coordinator of Institutional Research and Assessment and CSI's representative to the CUNY IR Council reports that the University's recent participation in NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) was a featured topic at the August 28 meeting. CUNY campuses are beginning to digest results that are now being reported by the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University – Bloomington.

Announcing a Valuable and Time-Sensitive Opportunity – Contact Warrick Bell Immediately!

The CUNY Assessment Council and the Central Office of Academic Affairs are sponsoring CUNY workshops on assessment-related topics. Designed for faculty and administrators who teach and/or have responsibility for implementing program-level assessment, these programs will be informative and timely. **Space is limited.** Readers who are interested in attending any or all of these programs are encouraged to contact Warrick Bell at ext. 2086 or via email at Warrick.Bell@csi.cuny.edu immediately for registration details. All workshops are scheduled on Friday mornings in Manhattan at the Macaulay Honors College Building – Lecture Hall, 35 West 67th Street, from 9:30 to 12 noon. Continental breakfast will be provided.

Friday, September 25	"A Road Map for Designing Program-Level Assessment of Student Learning"
Friday, October 9	"Content Analysis as a Tool for Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes"
Friday, November 20	"Using Assessment to (Im)Prove Student Learning"

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

Diane Fisher's "A Fortnight Walking the Perimeter" is a collection of personal essays and photographs documenting downtown Manhattan during the two weeks immediately after the World Trade Center attacks of September 11, 2001. It is available online at yesss.freeshell.org/t/_wtc.htm

The FORTNIGHT staff would like to take this opportunity to welcome new faculty members. They were introduced to this communiqué during the first session of New Faculty Orientation and have been added to the distribution list. We wish them a creative, fulfilling, and lengthy career as part of the College of Staten Island community.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **September 25, 2009**, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

