Campaign One: Helping Students Learn
Action Project B

Planned project kickoff date: 2004-04-15
Target completion date: 2009-012-31
Actual completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer: Centralizing
   Student Learning Outcome Assessment

B. Describe this Action Project in 100 words or fewer:

The primary goal of this project includes creating a centralized assessment system
to conduct descriptive analysis of current practices and policies, collect current
data from divisions, develop and implement direct and indirect measures of student
learning outcomes, and analyze the data for these outcomes. In addition, the goal
of this project necessarily includes the development of processes that utilize the
data for continuous improvement related to student learning outcomes. As a part
of this system, a website should be created to archive the data, analyses, and
assessment documents related to student learning outcomes. The data collection
necessary to reaching these goals includes the campus-wide collection of General
Education and discipline-specific practices, policies, and student learning outcome
assessment data as well as data on student learning outcomes in co-curricular
programs and benchmarks for incoming students.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or
   impact: Primary Category--Helping Students Learn (also relates to Measuring
   Effectiveness and Continuous Improvement)

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project
   now—why this project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

IU Northwest has been committed to revising its General Education Program, it is
has made significant progress in this effort, and the assessment of student learning
outcomes is a part of this reform effort. At the same time, discipline-specific units
have been assessing student learning outcomes and collecting their data for some
time. In IU Northwest's System Appraisal Feedback Report (April 11, 2006),
reviewers noted the need for centralization of data collection and analysis as well
as some gaps in our documentation in this area and in our implementation of such
assessment:

> IUN's portfolio reveals considerable variation in the approach to
> learning assessment by the different colleges across the university.
> Centralized deployment of a learning assessment model could serve to
> guide more uniform quantitative and qualitative development of aligned

measures in this critical area. IUN should consider a strategic initiative to reach agreement across the institution on a unified conceptual framework and approach for learning outcomes measurement. (7)

And

Although IUN does obtain some discipline-specific information within the various units, it does not currently have a system documenting common outcomes across the units. IUN has an opportunity to provide results for the common and program-specific learning outcomes. (15)

We are committed to continuous improvement in all facets of the University, and we feel that this project is integral to our success at our most fundamental function, helping students learn. Based on IU Northwest's Systems Appraisal Feedback Report (April 11, 2006) and the information gleaned at the 2007 AQIP Strategy Forum, the Strategic Planning Team and the AQIP Team has realized the opportunity the campus has for developing centralized student learning outcome assessment and using the data collected to improve student learning.

E. List the organizational areas—institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units—most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

Academic Affairs and every academic unit, department, division, and program as well as Student Affairs (co-curricular outcomes) will be affected by this Action Project, as our efforts will extend across the campus.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational processes that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

This Action Project will change and improve the process of collecting, analyzing, and assessing data related to student learning outcomes.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project:

- Create a centralized assessment system to conduct descriptive analysis of current practices and policies (2007-09-01),
- Create a website to archive the data, analyses, and assessment documents related to student learning outcomes (2007-09-01),
- Collect current data from divisions (2007-12-31),
- Develop and implement direct and indirect measures of student learning outcomes, collecting and analyzing the data for these outcomes (ongoing; 2008-01-01 to 2009-12-31 and beyond), and
- Develop processes that utilize the data for continuous improvement related to student learning outcomes (2009-12-31).

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

We will monitor the campus's progress in terms of the creation of a centralized system and plan for assessing student learning outcomes and the construction of a data and assessment archive.

I. Describe the overall 'outcome' measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

The outcome measures include

- the development of a centralized plan,
- the development of a web-based archive,
- the implementation of centralized data collection, analysis, and assessment of student learning outcomes, and
- the use of this assessment data to continuously improve our efforts to help students learn.

J. Other information (e.g. publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.)

K. Project Leader and Contact Person

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