South Mountain Community College

After the Academy: Establishing a Culture of Assessment

HLC Annual Conference, April 2014

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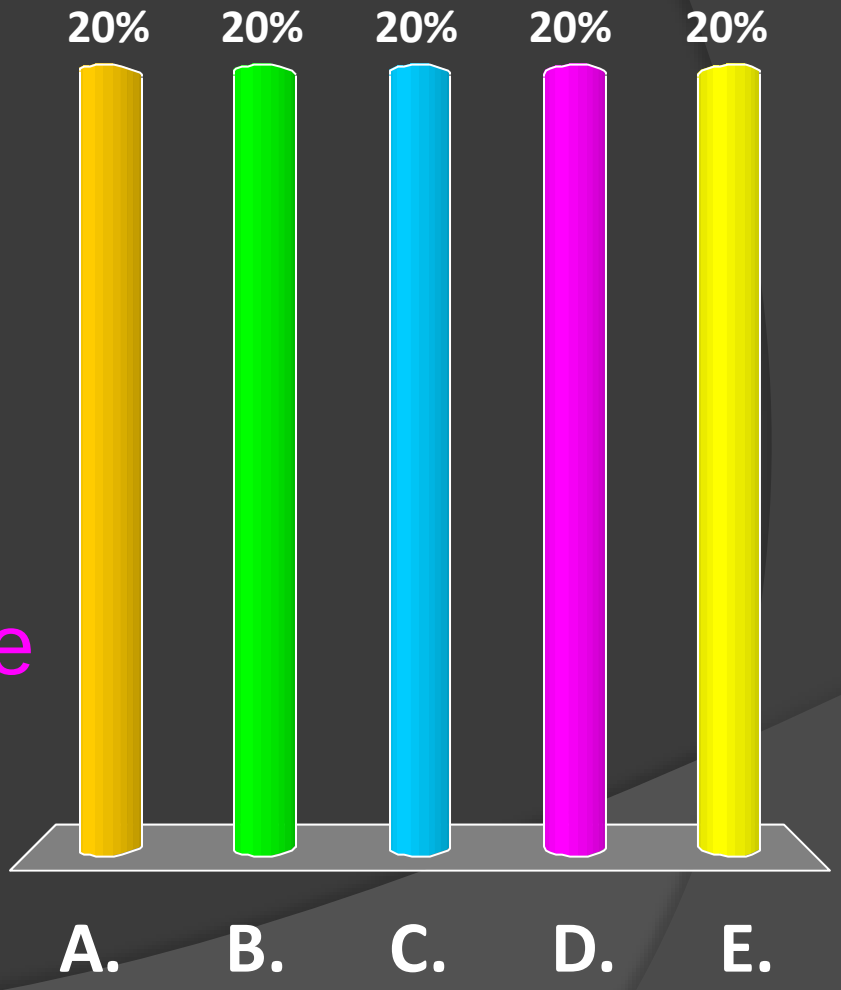
Dawn Thacker

Chicago is . . . .

A. A tropical oasis compared to home
B. No different than home
C. Colder today than our coldest winter day
D. I can't click the clicker – my fingers are frozen.

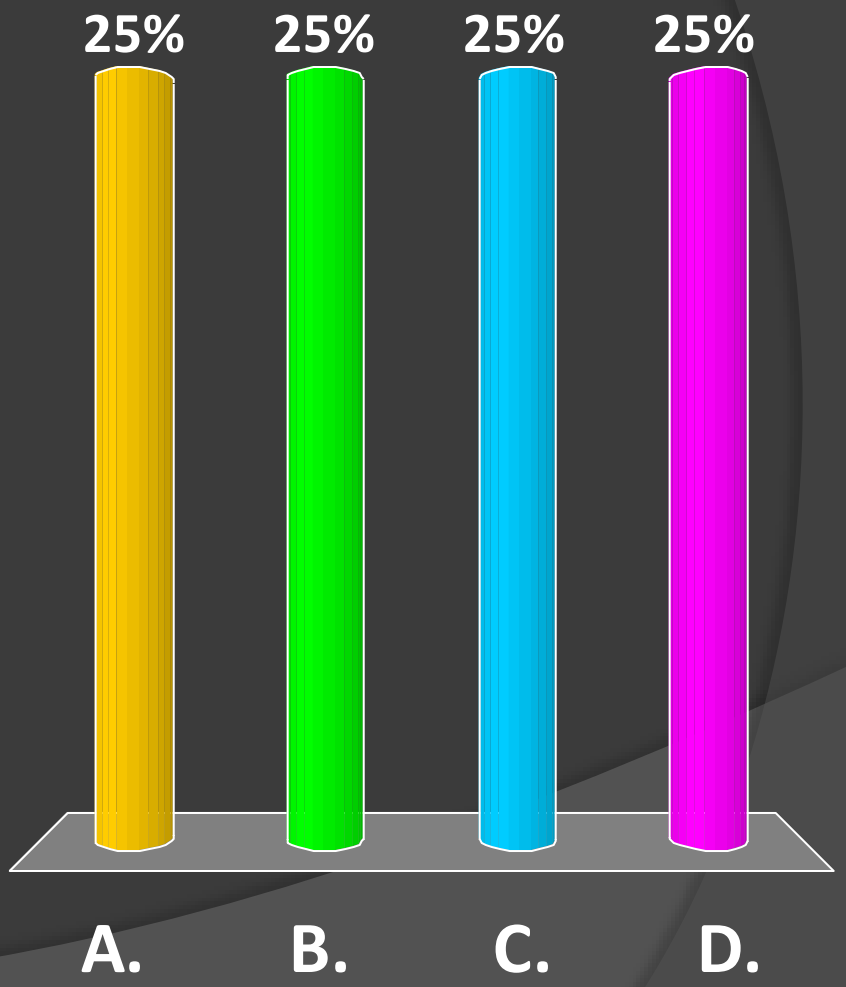
Are you directly involved in your institution's campus-wide assessment efforts?

A. Yes, campus coordinator /director
B. Yes, campus committee member
C. Yes, but division only
D. Indirectly – committee reports to me
E. No



To what extent do your colleagues understand and embrace student learning outcomes as a focus for assessment?

A. All understand & embrace
B. The majority do
C. Some get it
D. Few are on board

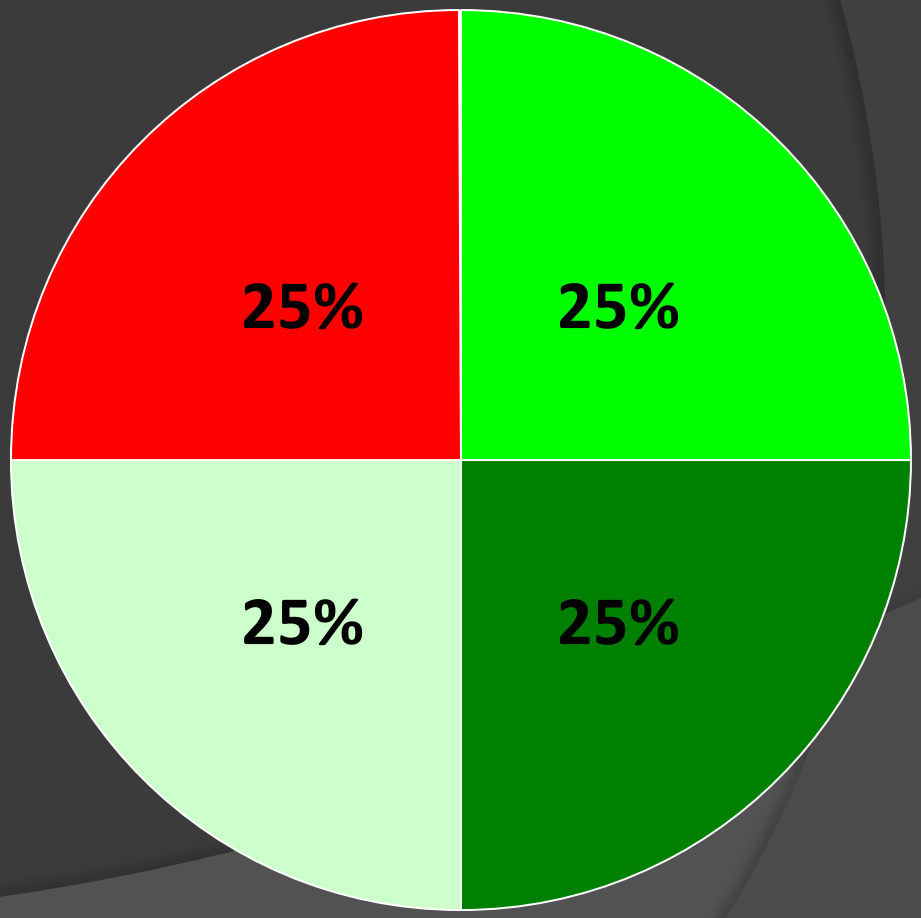


What kind of Student Learning Outcomes is your institution focusing on in its assessment plan?

A. Course level
B. Program level
C. Institutional level (General Education)
D. All of the above
E. B & C
F. What's an SLO?

Is your institution a member of the HLC Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning?

A. Yes (current)
B. Yes (completed)
C. Yes (incoming)
D. No



Background

- We joined the Academy for Assessment of Student Learning in 2009. Reason? We needed to reinvigorate our assessment work.

- While we didn't fulfill all of our goals for the Academy, we did accomplish our purpose – we are creating a culture of assessment.

Success Strategy #1

Have a clear vision and give it presence

STRATEGY

SLOs for Our Highest Enrolled Courses

Write Student Learning Outcomes for our top ten enrolled developmental courses and our top ten college-level courses, then locate or develop assessment instruments around those SLOs, analyze the data and use it improve the student learning in those courses.

POINTS: 20000 possible

200 - SLOs created for the course
400 - Assessment instrument created
600 - Implementation / data gathered
800 - Data analyzed
1000 - Improvement plan initiated

The "SMCC Experience"

Formation of "The SMCC Experience," addressing such things as empowering the learners, increasing global awareness, enhancing civic awareness and responsibility, and helping our students set educational, personal and career goals.

POINTS: Up to 10000

Culture of Assessment

Increase faculty dialog and awareness of issues related to student learning and assessment practices. This would be accomplished through special training workshops, division meetings, newsletters, and brown bag discussion groups.

POINTS: Up to 10000

Humanities Capstone Course

Create a capstone Humanities course that would serve as a summative assessment instrument on how well our students were attaining the general education outcomes.

POINTS: Up to 10000

STATUS

SLOs for Our Highest Enrolled Courses

4 - SLOs created for the course
6 - Assessment instrument created
0 - Implementation / data gathered
1 - Data analyzed
3 - Improvement plan initiated

The "SMCC Experience"

+ Foundations Academy (five year Title III grant)
+ Becoming a Gallup Strengths-based campus
+ 900+ students enrolled in "Creating College Success"
+ "Passport to the Mountain" orientations
+ "Cougar Days" aimed at high school students
+ New library with city of Phoenix; Remodeled cyber-cafe
+ Civic engagement opportunities
+ Veteran's Services

Culture of Assessment

+ Day of Learning workshops on SLOs and Assessment
+ Brown bag luncheons
+ Continuous improvment training (Six Sigma; LEAN)
+ Increased attendance at HLC (10 fold)

Our Self Assessment

Top 20 SLOs:	6800 / 20000
SMCC Experience:	8000 / 10000
Culture Change:	2000 / 10000
Capstone Course:	0 / 10000

HIGHSCORE: 50000
OUR SCORE: 16800

~~Humanities Capstone Course~~

- Not part of our degrees - low enrollment
- Would need to be approved by our nine sister colleges
- Lack of faculty buy-in

NEXT LEVEL:

Sustaining the Project & Going Beyond

We have learned much along the way and we recognize the project does not end with our completion of the Academy timeline. If anything, the project is just beginning as key foundational pieces for success are now put in place.

We have a much improved strategic planning process the past two years, resulting in an overall strategic plan with division and department-specific action plans that focus on achievement of the identified goals. Our overall campus strategic plan calls for Student Learning Outcomes to be created for ALL of our courses over the next three years! We now have administrative support and a campus-wide mandate for not only completing our initial project but going far beyond it.

Institutionally, we seem to have a much clearer direction now as it relates to the big picture than we did four years ago. This will help us gain momentum in both the development and assessment of SLOs in our courses and further strengthening of "The SMCC Experience."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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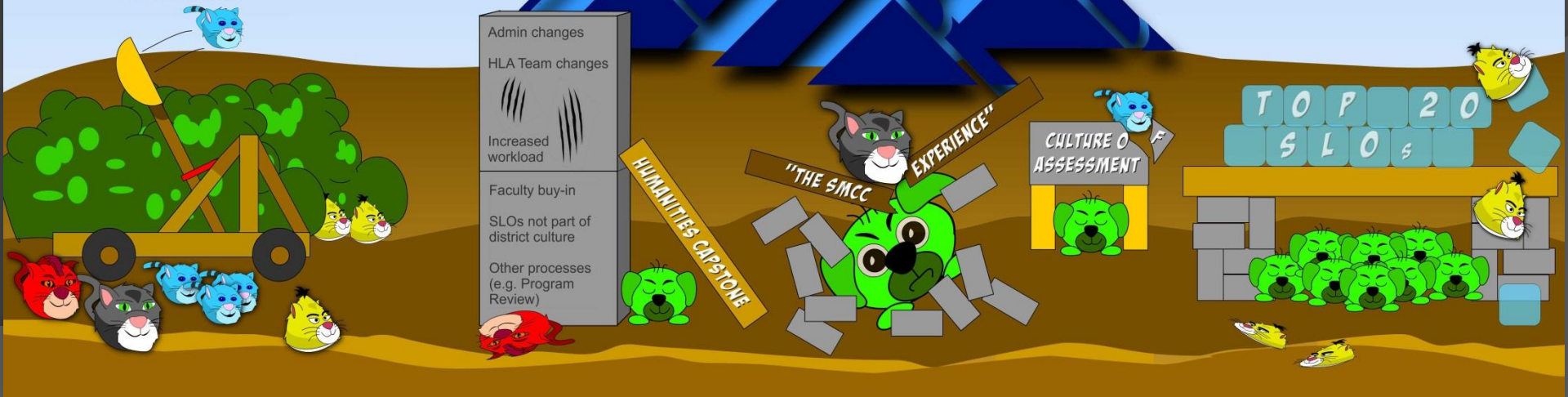
or visit: http://bit.ly/YpOFeR

HAPPY CATS

A VISUAL SUMMARY OF
"GEN ED AND THE TOP 10/10 COURSES"
AN HLC ACADEMY PROJECT



Clear Vision:
SMCC Assessment Goals

- Develop course Student Learning Outcomes (cSLOs) and assessment activities for every course at the College
- Establish a cycle of assessment in every course and division of the College
- Establish a culture of assessment at SMCC

Give it Presence: SMCC Strategic Plan and SLOs

In 2012, we made the creation of course Student Learning Outcomes (cSLOs) for every course at SMCC a part of our College Strategic Plan.

Give it presence: Brand it

Success Strategy #2

Identify and Recruit Assessment Champions

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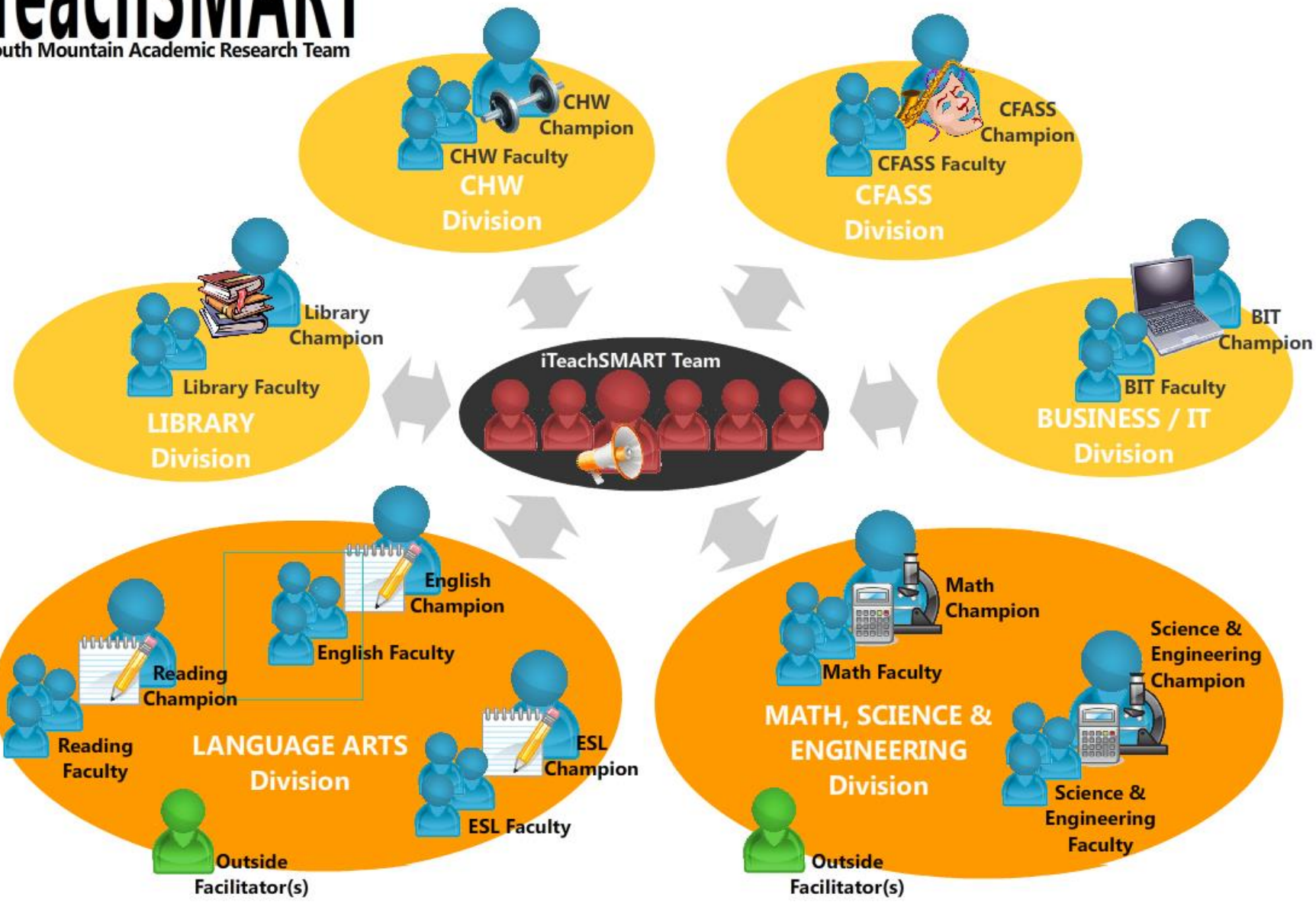
South Mountain Academic Research Team



Goal Timeline

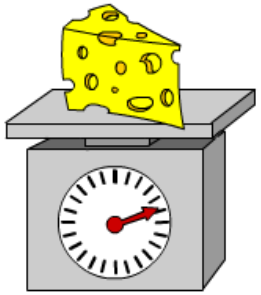
Year 1 (2013-14)

- Pilot project:
  - Create cSLOs and assessments
  - Learn from faculty! (develop materials / process)
- Recruit Champions for other divisions
- Develop website for data collection and reporting

Success Strategy #3

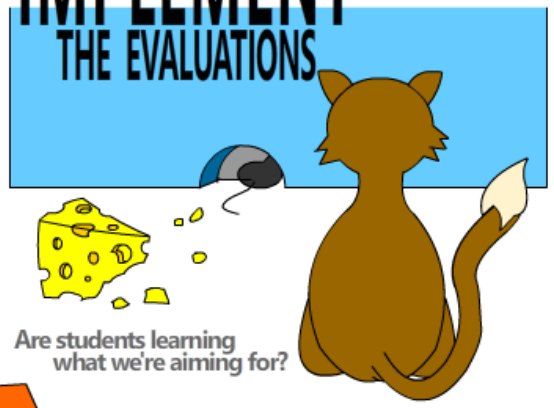
Develop a plan and resources—
and then be open to feedback

What should students be able to do as a result of this course?

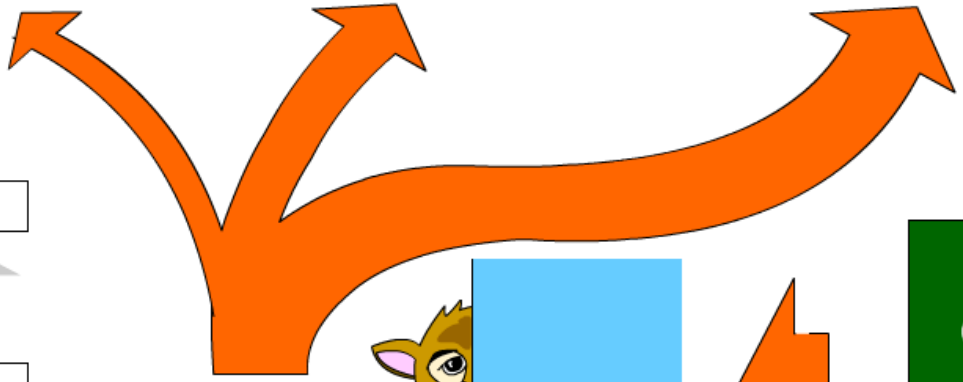


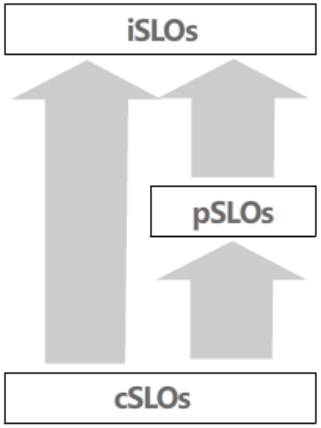
DEVELOP
INSTRUMENTS TO EVALUATE cSLOs

What do we want to know about student learning?



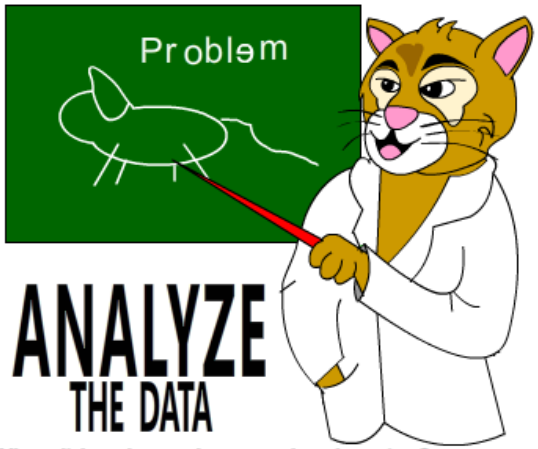
Are students learning what we're aiming for?





iSLOs = Institutional Student Learning Outcomes
pSLOs = Program-level Student Learning Outcomes
cSLOs = Course-level Student Learning Outcomes

What can make the learning process better?



What did we learn about student learning?

What We've Developed

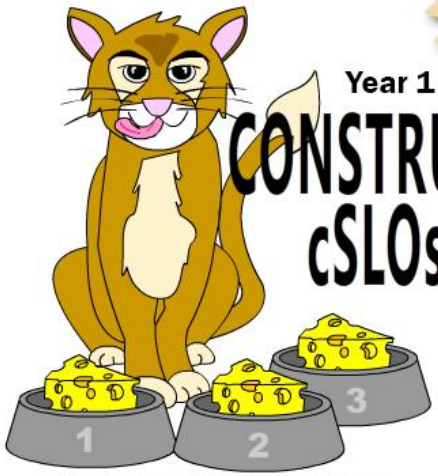
- Deadlines and Milestones
- Informational Sessions & Workshops
- Forms & Resources

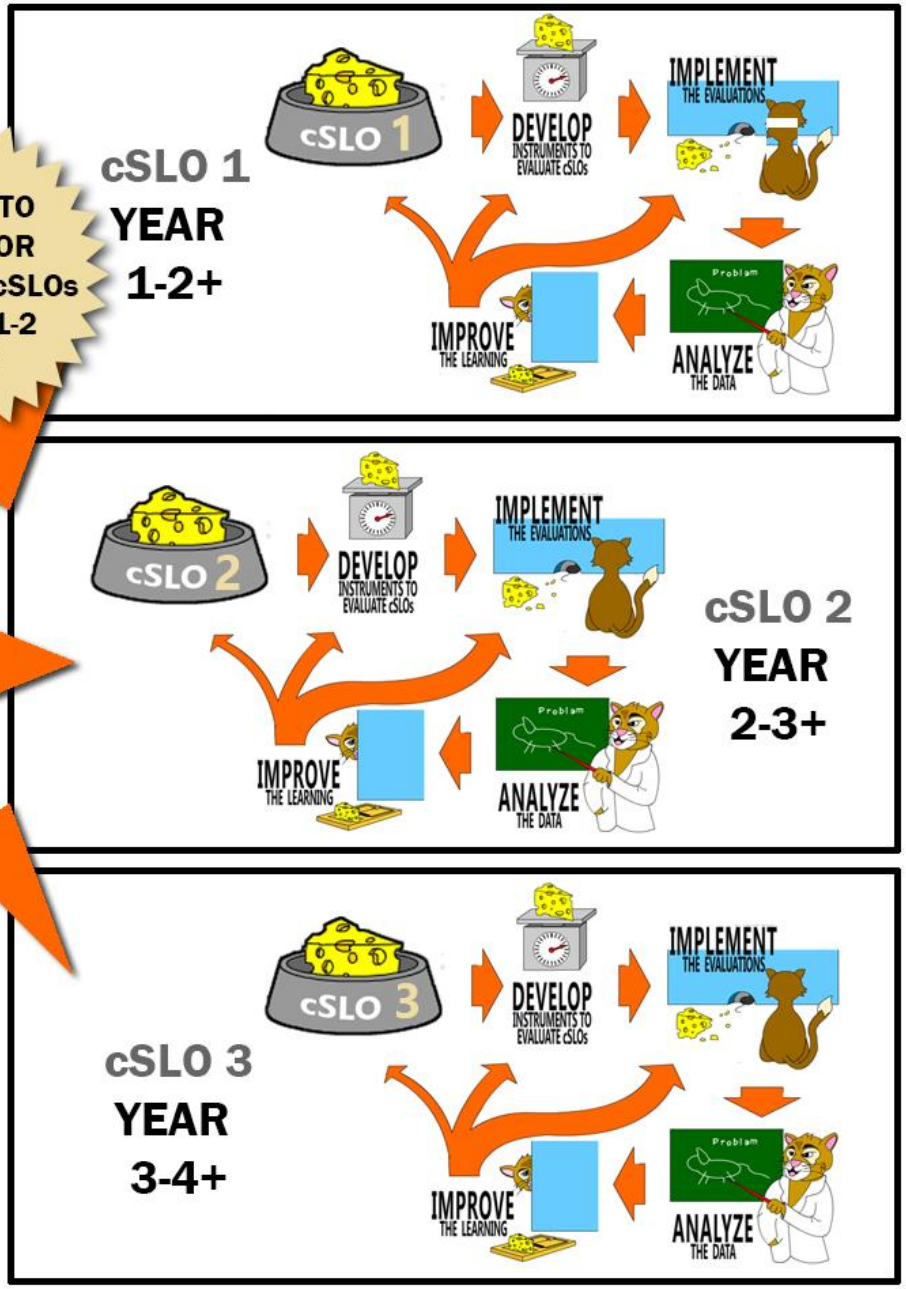
Deadlines and Milestones

- Year 1 (2013-14)
  - Pilot project:
    - Create cSLOs and assessments
    - Learn from faculty! (develop materials / process)
  - Recruit Champions for other divisions
  - Develop website for data collection and reporting
- Year 2 (2014-15)
  - Implement refined pilot process in all Divisions
  - Monitor ongoing assessment cycle in pilot groups
  - Map cSLOs to Gen Ed outcomes (iSLOs)
- Year 3 (2015-16)
  - Review, reflect, revise
  - Complete cSLO process
  - Begin program Outcomes (pSLOs)

Assessment Cycle

MAY OPT TO DO TWO OR ALL THREE cSLOs IN YEAR 1-2 CYCLE





Informational Sessions & Workshops

- Fall Semester
  - Overview / cSLO Info session
  - cSLO workshop
  - Assessment Activity Info session

- Spring Semester
  - Rubric Construction info session
  - Assessment Activity / Rubric workshop
  - Implementation Info session

What We've Developed

- Deadlines and Milestones
- Informational Sessions & Workshops
- Forms & Resources

cSLO Creation

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South Mountain Assessment Resource Team

Student Learning Outcomes - Overview

Course Info		
	Course ID:	Course Name:
	Faculty contact(s):	
	Division/Department:	

Learning Outcome #1	
	Course-level Student Learning Outcome (cSLO) #1: After having taken this course, the student should be able to . . .
	What institutional General Education Outcome(s) does this SLO map to (if any)? ☐ Critical/Creative Thinking ☐ Quantitative Analysis ☐ Information Literacy ☐ Written/Oral Communication

Learning Outcome #2	
	Course-level Student Learning Outcome (cSLO) #2: After having taken this course, the student should be able to . . .
	What institutional General Education Outcome(s) does this SLO map to (if any)? ☐ Critical/Creative Thinking ☐ Quantitative Analysis ☐ Information Literacy ☐ Written/Oral Communication

ome #3	
	Course-level Student Learning Outcome (cSLO) #3: After having taken this course, the student should be able to . . .

Assessment Activity

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Student Learning Outcomes - Assessment Strategy

COURSE INFO

Course Number	
Course Name	
Faculty Contacts	
Date	
New or update?	

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

What is the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) that is being addressed in this assessment activity?

What is the Assessment Question(s) that is being sought to be answered by this activity?

What data do I need to know to be able to answer the Assessment Question(s)?

THE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Provide a brief title for your activity (for reference/search purposes)

Briefly describe the assessment strategy/activity

Results Analysis

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Student Learning Outcomes - Results Analysis

COURSE INFO

Course Number	
Course Name	
Faculty Contacts	
Date	

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME

What is the Student Learning Outcome (SLO) that was addressed in this assessment activity?

THE ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Provide a summary of the results or attach a spreadsheet

Provide an analysis of the results

Recommendation to improve student success on this outcome?

Any changes needed to the assessment instrument or the SLO?

Success Strategy #4

Communicate and Celebrate

Communicate

- Emails
- Division Meetings
- Lunches
- “Drop-ins”

Documenting & Reporting: The Website

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South Mountain Assessment Resource Team

Welcome to iTeachSMART

Ut auctor lectus nec nisi pretium, lobortis condimentum mi sollicitudin. Aliquam mollis porta nibh sit amet cursus. Quisque posuere cursus justo ut sagittis. Donec lobortis, diam in cursus lobortis, nunc orci lacinia sapien, in tristique lectus leo id justo. Ut risus leo, suscipit eget aliquam vel, adipiscing ut augue. Suspendisse hendrerit nibh ut urna pharetra bibendum. Praesent augue turpis, fringilla id massa ut, vulputate fermentum metus. Curabitur bibendum tellus ut sem venenatis pulvinar. Phasellus rhoncus enim mi, vitae luctus enim placerat ac. Mauris in nibh nec neque volutpat mollis ut in velit. Aliquam hendrerit euismod sodales.

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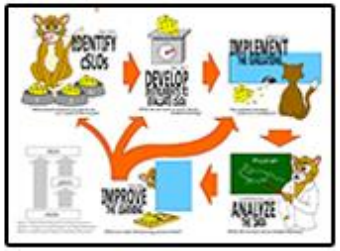
The SLO Project



Formative/Summative

Gen Ed Outcomes

HLC Academy

Documenting & Reporting: The Website

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The SLO Project : Overview

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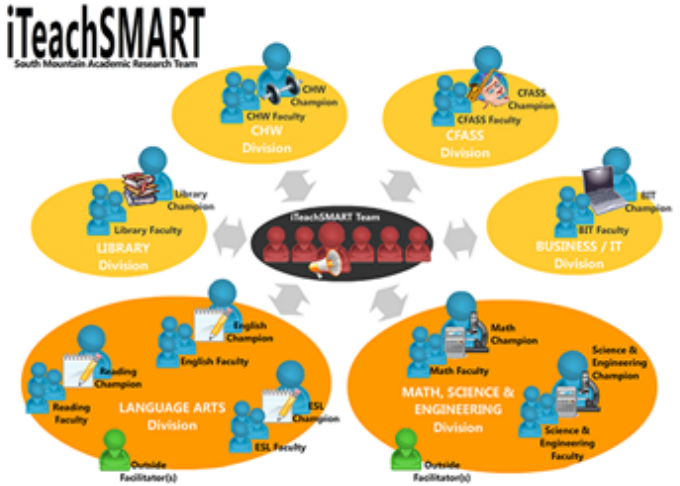

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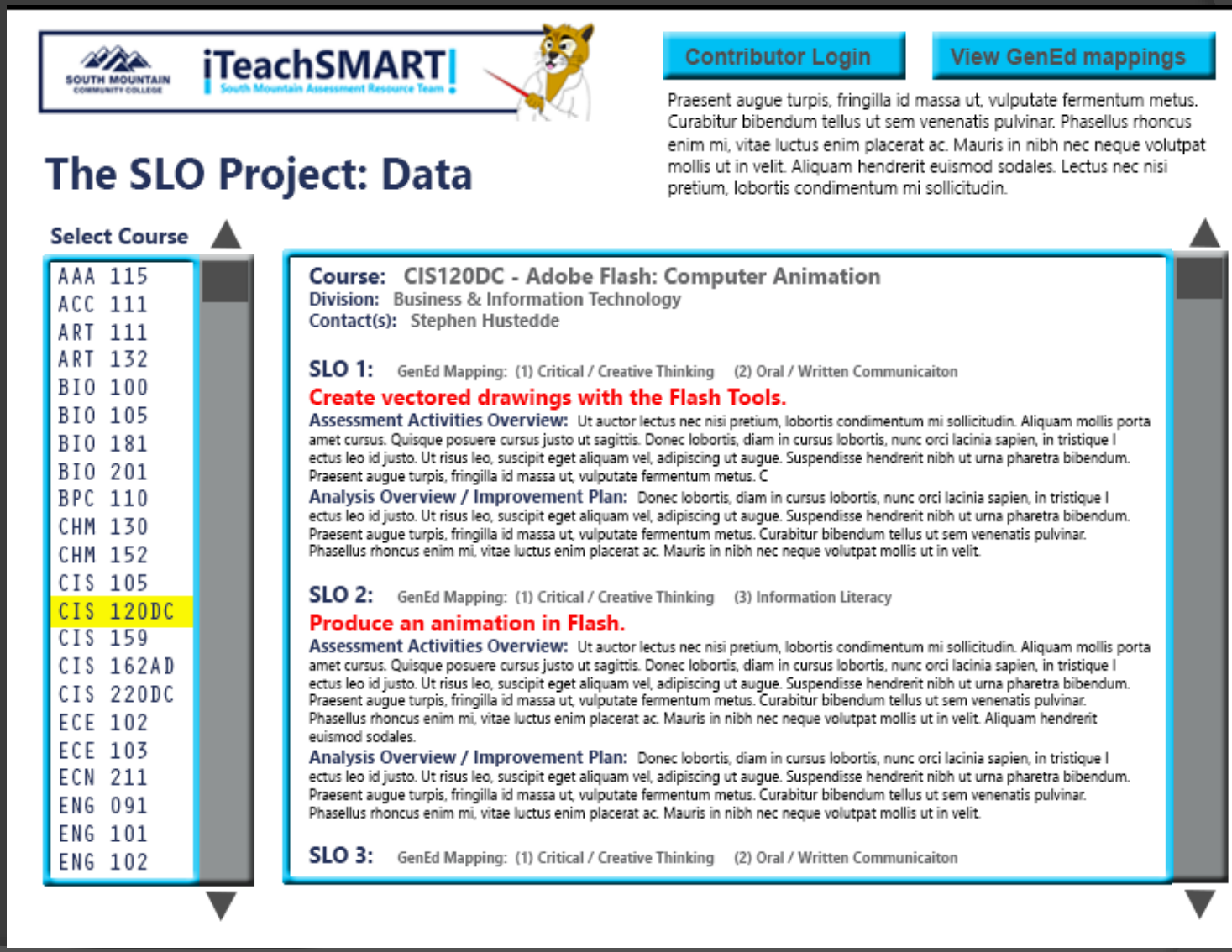
CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE DATA

Documenting & Reporting: The Website



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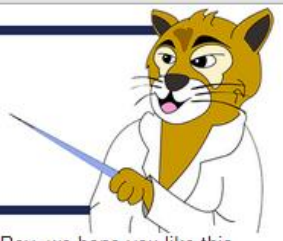

Our Vice President of Learning has expectations that we would have "3D Holograms" on the site. Not quite holograms, but Rey, we hope you like this . . . (3D glasses not provided) . . .

This website is under development . . . check back after July, 2014

Here's a link to our Higher Learning Academy website. You'll also find our current iTeachSMART SLO project info there.

Celebrations

Friendly Competition and Recognition

- Assessment Division of the Year
- Assessment Activity of the Month
- Prizes and presentations each fall
- Special Recognition for Assessment Champions
- Publishing in “SMCC Top Ten”

Success Strategy #5

Be realistic

There will be challenges

- Meeting times
- Don’t wait for the perfect time
- Blips happen
- This is extra work - don’t pretend it’s not

Time for questions/discussion

- Questions for us?
- At your institution:
  - What are your strategies for success?
  - What obstacles do you face?

Contact Info

www.iteachsmart.org

Our HLC Academy project

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