ASSESSING FOR LEARNING

Building a Sustainable Commitment Across the Institution

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(204 pages)

This book offers colleges and universities a framework and tools to design an effective and collaborative assessment process appropriate for their culture and institution. It encapsulates the approach that Peggy Maki has developed and refined through the hundreds of successful workshops she has presented nationally and internationally.

Peggy Maki starts with a definition of assessment as a process that enables us to determine the fit between what we expect our students to understand and be able to do, and what they actually demonstrate at points along their educational careers.

She then presents a framework—accompanied by extensive examples of processes, strategies, and illustrative campus practices as well as key resources, guides, worksheets, and exercises—that will assist all stakeholders in the institution to articulate, develop, and sustain assessment of student learning as an integral and systematic core institutional process.

This book presents inquiry into student learning as a core process of institutional learning—a way of knowing about our work—to improve educational practices. Becoming learning organizations themselves, higher education institutions deepen understanding of their educational effectiveness by examining the various ways in which students make their learning visible.

Here is a process that any campus can adapt and use to engage all its constituencies—institutional leaders, faculty, staff, administrators, students, and everyone involved in governance—in constructive dialogue to forge a vision about, and commitment to, a culture of evidence.

(Book Cover)

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1. Developing a Collective Institutional Commitment

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Intellectual curiosity about student learning Institutional principles of commitment Meaningful beginnings

Institutional Examples:

North Carolina State University Rochester Community and Technical College University of Portland

Additional Resources

2. Beginning with Dialogue About Teaching and Learning

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Establishing collaboration as a principle that underlies the work of assessment committees and their relationship with members of the academic community

Promoting institution- and program-level dialogue about teaching and learning as the context for embedding assessment

Guiding the development of visual representations that document where and how students learn what an educational community values

Institutional Examples:

New Jersey City University Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Additional Resources

3. Making Claims About Student Learning Within Contexts for Learning

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Fostering collective authorship of and agreement on learning outcome statements

Fostering collective review and approval of these statements Orienting students to institution- and program-level learning outcome statements

Institutional Examples:

California State University Monterey Bay Stonehill College University of Washington

Additional Resources

4. Identifying or Designing Tasks to Assess the Dimensions of Learning

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Parameters of decision making that lead to choices

Properties of methods that make them fit for use

Range of direct and indirect methods that capture the dimensions of learning

Institutional Examples:

Academic Librarians and Faculty

Alverno College

Keystone College

Marian College

North Carolina University

Stanford University

Student Affairs and Academic Affairs

University of Michigan

Additional Resources

5. Reaching Consensus About Criteria and Standards of Judgment

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Developing scoring rubrics that enable scorers to rate student work against criteria and standards for judgment

Pilot testing scoring rubrics to ascertain how well they capture the dimensions of students' learning

Developing interrater reliability among scorers as they apply scoring rubrics to samples of student work

Institutional Examples:

Azusa Pacific University

North Carolina State University

Additional Resources

6. Designing a Cycle of Inquiry

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Guiding an institution- or program-level cycle of inquiry Guiding the development of periodic reports that chronicle the assessment process, results, and next steps for each cycle of inquiry

Institutional Examples:

Florida Community College at Jacksonville Mesa Community College Providence College University of South Florida

Additional Resources

7. Building a Core Institutional Process of Inquiry Over Time

Worksheets, Guides, and Exercises in:

Promoting institutional self-reflection about a campus's current commitment to assessing for learning
Stimulating collective discussion about ways in which current commitment might deepen or expand into a core institutional process focused on advancing institutional and student learning

Institutional Examples:

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Portland State University Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology United States Naval Academy University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Additional Resources