Welcome to the first issue of SLO News, West Los Angeles College’s SLO newsletter! This newsletter will be published monthly during the spring and fall semesters and will provide updates on current SLO progress at West, resources for faculty, as well as faculty dialogue and reflection pieces. Often, course improvements come about through the assessment of outcomes, and those changes will also be highlighted in this newsletter.

The SLO Committee and SLO Coordinator have been busy this summer reviewing and discussing the accreditation recommendations related to SLOs. The SLO Committee is developing an action plan to outline steps needed to address both recommendations. A working group will be developed to provide input on future steps as well as to contribute to writing the response to the recommendations.

The SLO Coordinator has initiated a series of meetings with the Student Services Division to improve the existing service level outcomes (SLOs). The contributions in the writing process have come from a broad sampling of the Student Services Departments. These working meetings are ongoing, and the newly-improved outcomes will be finalized shortly.

The SLO Committee is holding a series of SLO workshops this semester (see dates below). During Flex Week, there are workshops on Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education Outcomes. These two faculty-focused activities will provide an opportunity to assess and discuss assessment findings. There will also be an SLO breakout session during Flex Day, which will include information regarding SLO assessment and resources, faculty dialogue, and rubrics. Faculty will also produce a rubric to assess student work. There will be other important SLO workshops this semester to take faculty “back to the basics” with SLOs as well. In these workshops, course level or course-specific SLOs will be reviewed and developed as necessary. These workshops are ideal for all faculty, full and part time.

Lastly, in preparation for the fall semester, all faculty are reminded to include course SLOs in your syllabus. If you do not know what SLOs to include, you can find those course-specific SLOs for the course you are teaching by visiting the ECD (Electronic Curriculum Development) system at https://ecd.laccd.edu. Click on “Find a Course” and use the pull down menus to filter and select the course. You can view the course outline by clicking on “Click Here” on the right side of the page. Click on “Section II” and scroll down to see the SLOs for the course. If you need assistance, contact Todd Matosic at matosit@wlac.edu or x4213.
The SLO Coordinator worked with the Science Division Chair, Dr. Abraha Bahta, over the summer to complete work on program assessments. The Biology Program has been assessed; the Chemistry, Geography, Geology and Physics programs are near completion. As of Spring 2012, all courses offered for these degrees have been assessed at least one time. When the fall semester resumes, courses will start to be assessed as part of the second cycle. Also, the chair of the Science division discussed the need to have SLOs as a standing agenda item for the division meetings that take place in the future. The SLO calendar, which documents the schedule of current courses undergoing assessment, is also in the final stage of completion for the Science Division.

SLO and Easy: SLO Tips

SLO Assessment Tutorial

West’s SLO Committee has developed a step-by-step, online video tutorial site aimed towards faculty that provides guidance and clarity in completing the SLO assessment tool. View it at http://west-slo.weebly.com.

Rubrics

Here is an example of a resource you can use when looking for words to build your rubric around. It includes information about Bloom’s Taxonomy, which is also used in developing learning outcomes. The handout indicates that classifying instructional objectives using Bloom’s taxonomy helps to determine the levels of learning included in an instructional unit or lesson. It can be accessed at http://www.rpgroup.org/sites/default/files/Blooms%20Taxonomy.pdf.

Online Tutorial for Creating a Rubric

The Center for Faculty Development at the University of Colorado, Denver has an online tutorial for faculty on creating a rubric. The webpage provides information related to rubrics such as what is a rubric, assessment concepts, creating a rubric, and judging quality. The tutorial can be accessed at http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/faculty/center-for-faculty-development/Documents/Tutorials/Rubrics/index.htm.

SLO Committee

Todd Matosic, Co-Chair
Mary-Jo Apigo, Co-Chair
Adrienne Foster
Donna Olvera
Jawell Samilton
Kell Stone
Kristina Thomas, Resource
Kathy Walton, Resource

The SLO Committee reports to the Academic Senate through the Curriculum Committee.

The SLO Committee is currently looking to add to its membership. All full-time and adjunct faculty are encouraged to inquire. The committee meets on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1 to 2:30 pm.

TODD MATOSIC
SLO Coordinator
matosit@wlac.edu | (310) 287-4213
CE-213

MARY-JO APIGO
Dean of Teaching & Learning
apigomj@wlac.edu | (310) 287-4410
HLRC-315

WEST: A gateway to success for every student

West Los Angeles College provides a transformative educational experience.