

Center of **Inquiry**

WABASH COLLEGE

Annual Assessment Meeting

08 August 2004

The Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts will be holding the Third Annual Assessment Conference on August 8- 10, 2004. We will be focusing on two initiatives: the Center of Inquiry's longitudinal study, Liberal Arts Education: A Study of Practices and Outcomes, and American Association of Colleges and Universities' Liberal Education and America's Promise: Engaging the Public with What Matters in Colleges. Participants from around the country will gather in conversation and discussion about these two initiatives, which are early in their development.

Participants	Institution
Andy Ford	Wabash College
Bill Doemel	Wabash College
Charlie Blaich	Wabash College
Kim Kline	Wabash College
Kathy Wise	Wabash College
Dan Rogalski	Wabash College
Mauri Ditzler	Wabash College
Cherry Danielson	Wabash College
Jim Amidon	Wabash College
Jenn Laskowski	Wabash College
Kristel VanBuskirk	Wabash College
Barbara Cambridge	American Association for Higher Education
Sara Cobb	Lilly Endowment, Inc.
Hans Giesecke	Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc.
Michelle Gilliard	Council of Independent Colleges (CIC)
Richard Hersh	CAE/RAND
Patricia King	University of Michigan
Jillian Kinzie	Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research/NSSE
George Kuh	Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research/NSSE
Andrea Leskes	AAC&U
Nathan Lindsay	University of Michigan
Marcia Magolda	Miami University
Alexander McCormick	The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
Catherine Millett	Educational Testing Service
Ernie Pascarella	University of Iowa
Carol Schneider	AAC&U
Tricia Seifert	University of Iowa
JoNes VanHecke	University of Michigan
Jane Wellman	Institute for Higher Education Policy
Greg Wolniak	University of Iowa

Agenda

Sunday, August 8th

2.30 - 3.30 Refreshments, 3rd floor rotunda

3.00 - 3.15	Welcome, Trippet 325
3.15 - 5.00	Orienting Discussion on Outcomes and Accountability, Conference Room, Trippet 325
5.30 - 6.00	Reception, 2nd floor rotunda
6.00 - 7.30	Dinner, Trippet Hall Dining Room
7.45 - 9.00	Continuation of Orienting Discussion, Trippet 325

Monday, August 9th

7.30- 8.30	Breakfast, Trippet Hall Dining Room
8.45 - 10.00	Longitudinal Study (Part I), Trippet 123
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break and informal conversation, 3rd floor rotunda
10.30 - 11.45	Longitudinal Study (Part II), Trippet 123
12.00 - 1.00	Lunch, Trippet Dining Room
1.15 - 2.30	Longitudinal Study- discussion, Trippet 325
2.30 - 4.30	Free Time
4.30 - 6.00	AAC&U Initiative: Engaging the public and policy leaders with learning outcomes of a liberal arts education, Trippet 325
6.30 - 7.00	Reception, Trippet 2nd floor rotunda
7.00 - 8.30	Dinner, Trippet Dining Room
9.00	Informal Discussion

Tuesday, August 10th

6.00	Allen Athletic Center Open
7.30 - 8.30	Check Out and Breakfast, Trippet Dining Room
8.45 - 10.00	Discussion about AAC&U initiative: Connections with the longitudinal study and other research outcomes, Trippet 325
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee Break and informal conversation, 3rd floor rotunda
10.30 - 11.45	Concluding discussion on next step, Trippet 325
12.00 - 1.00	Lunch, Trippet Dining Room

Summary

The Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts welcomed representatives from a variety of organizations with interests in higher education for their Third Annual Assessment Conference August 8-10, 2004.

Ernie Pascarella (University of Iowa), Patricia King (University of Michigan), Marcia Baxter Magolda (Miami University), and Carol Schneider (AAC&U) gave presentations and led discussions at the Monday/Tuesday meetings. Dr. Pascarella described the quantitative portion of the Center of Inquiry's longitudinal study of practices and outcomes of liberal arts education. Dr. King and Dr. Baxter Magolda discussed the in-depth campus study and interview components of this research. Dr. Schneider presented the initiatives of the AAC&U with a focus on policy leaders and the public becoming engaged with the learning outcomes of liberal arts education. She also addressed the topic of possible connections with the Center of Inquiry's longitudinal study and with other research.

Conference attendees posed challenging questions to the presenters and offered valuable ideas for improvements to the current research plans. Some suggestions were to find ways to track students who do not stay at one institution for their whole undergraduate experience; to collect examples of student work over time to evaluate development; and to intentionally include a mix of institutions in the studies. One participant remarked on the rich data available if researchers could follow subgroups of students and it was noted that these types of investigations have been planned and will take place. Many lively discussions broached topics including preferred terminology and the need for more concrete definitions of liberal arts outcomes/liberal arts education; current public impressions of liberal arts and how to better inform this audience; and what results the Center's studies might uncover.