The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is dedicated to Creighton University’s commitment to excellence in teaching and student learning by offering faculty and staff the opportunity to:

Imagine... the Opportunities.
Reflect...on Best Practices.
Collaborate...with Campus Colleagues.
Transform... Student Learning.

Given the changing landscape of higher education, pedagogical innovations, and student needs, AEA invites creative engagement among faculty and staff, through comprehensive university-wide ongoing professional

REGISTRATION OPEN: UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT SYMPOSIUM

The third annual University Assessment Symposium will celebrate evidence of engaged student learning while showcasing the depth and breadth of assessment and service-learning activities across the university, and highlight the advanced curricular and co-curricular assessment efforts at Creighton. This symposium is an opportunity for rich academic discourse and engaged discussion of “high impact practices in service-learning and assessment.”

The Symposium “Service Learning and Assessment through an Ignatian Lens” will be held Thursday, Oct. 6 from 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Program format includes:

- 8:15-9:45 a.m. - Poster Session with presenters on assessment activities
development programs and services.

Collaboration and conversation of teaching and learning create a community of life-long learners; AEA programs offer innovative, interprofessional and interdisciplinary engagement with faculty and staff in elevating dialogue on excellence in teaching and assessment of student learning.

Contact AEA to learn more about faculty development programming, assessment, course design, effective teaching methods, and/or the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) and service learning.

Find past issues of this newsletter here.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Kandis McCafferty, PhD, RNC-OB, C-EFM, assistant professor of nursing, is the recipient of the Nursing Leadership: 40 Under 40 Award from the Nebraska Action Coalition. This award recognizes 40 nurse leaders who are under 40 years of age from across the state of Nebraska for their unique contributions to leadership within the nursing profession. A reception to honor these 40 award recipients will be held Sept. 16 at Union College in Lincoln.

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The International Journal of Educational Organization and Leadership recently published an article co-authored by Thomas Simonds, SJ, EdD, associate professor of education, Barbara Brock, EdD, professor of education, and Max Engel, PhD, assistant professor of education. The article, “Peer Course Review as a Means to Support Adjunct Faculty in an Online Program” explores ways to help adjuncts better integrate within online programs.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION
ACCREDITATION VISIT

Creighton University is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. The University is in the preparation stages for the 2016-2017 HLC accreditation visit on April 10-11, 2017.

View Provost Update and Campus Updates.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

DID YOU KNOW...

U.S. News and World Report once again ranked Creighton University as no. 1 in the Midwest as best of the Midwest regional universities. The University achieved a No. 4 placement for Best Undergraduate Teaching in the region and was also No. 3 in the Midwest in the Most Innovative Schools category.

Learn more:
U.S. News School Profile
All Rankings and reviews

For more information, contact Dr. Ying Vuthipadadon, Director of Institutional Research at 402.280.1164.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

NO MORE WHINING ABOUT POOR STUDENT WRITING

Writing is a behavior, as is grading and giving feedback. This process is a dialogue between instructors and students. How do we, as instructors, behave in this dialogue? This two-part series will examine writing as a behavior, using textual analysis techniques to determine what the writing behavior tells us about an individual student. Then we will turn the tables and examine our own behaviors in the dialogue. What do we as instructors do to facilitate (or obstruct) the process of developing excellent writing in the discipline?

No More Whining about Poor Student Writing: Changing Behaviors to Improve Student Writing
(Wednesdays, Oct. 5 and Oct. 12; 11-12:30; Skutt 104; lunch to be provided) Facilitator: Brian Kokensparger, College of Arts & Sciences, AEA Senior Associate

More
CURRICULUM CREATIVITY

The sessions will focus on activities to promote attention, engagement, retention and application of course material and take up very little class time. You’ll be challenged to implement new strategies after each session and report back to the group. Bring your current syllabus and we’ll connect new ideas with your current content. In the final sessions we’ll create a plan for updating future courses and connecting with other courses in the curriculum.

Curriculum Creativity: Small Changes, Big Results  (Tuesday, Nov. 1; Friday, November 18; and Tuesday, December 6; 11:30-1; Brandeis 112; lunch to be provided)  
Facilitator: Amy Mayer, Occupational Therapy Department, AEA Senior Associate  More Information, | Register for Program.

Those who attend the entire series will receive a copy of Small Teaching: Everyday Lessons from the Science of Learning. Can’t attend all sessions? Those who attend at least one session and complete the “homework” exercises will qualify to be in a drawing for a copy.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: AEA DEVELOPMENT GRANTS 2017

The Office for Academic Excellence and Assessment (AEA) is accepting proposals for the Assessment of Student Learning/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grants. The proposals are designed to support newly initiated or "early stage" assessment of student learning and/or Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) projects. Review of proposals begin November 9, and notifications of award will be made not later than December 21, 2016. More information on eligibility, application process and expectations.

SOTL RESOURCES

In the SoTL International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Volume 10, Number 2,
2016, the article, Factors Associated with Faculty Use of Student Data for Instructional Improvement, reports the results of an exploration of factors that influence faculty to consider or reject using analysis of student data to improve instruction based on social cognitive theory. Self-efficacy, value of the outcome, and feasibility of using a student data-based reflection process were found to be related to the actual use of components of the reflection process by faculty.

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Full-time faculty applications are being accepted for the Lorraine S. Gilpin SoTL Travel Award. Award recipients will receive $400 cash award to attend and present at the SoTL Commons Annual Conference in March 2017. Application deadline is October 17. More information. | To apply.

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CAMPUS RESOURCES

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ALL-UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FAIR

Faculty, students and staff are invited to attend the fourth annual All-University Undergraduate Research Fair; Tuesday, Oct. 4; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.; Skutt SC Ballroom. The fair is co-sponsored by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences Student Senate. The Fair will highlight research from each college and school through posters and one-on-one presentations by faculty and students. Learn more.
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
The Virtual Center for Teaching Excellence (vCTE) is a one-stop shop website with information, tools and resources to enhance your classroom/online professional development for both new and seasoned faculty. Visit the vCTE website to learn more about strategies to actively engage students, assessment of student learning, service-learning, effective online and classroom teaching, and more. New to the site: BlueLine tutorial videos.

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP
The Reinert-Alumni Memorial Library partners with both AEA and CAI to offer campus-wide subscriptions. Take advantage of the great resources found in the August and September issue of the Teaching Professor and the September issue of Online Classroom. For more information contact Rick Kerns.

ONLINE DEVELOPMENT
Creighton has an institutional membership to Online Learning Consortium (OLC) and WCET. Both are great resources dedicated to improving the quality of distance learning.

ASSESSMENT MENTORING PROGRAM
The Office of Academic Excellence and Assessment has established a cadre of assessment mentors to assist individuals, programs and departments in conducting the many activities that comprise quality assessment.
- Assessment Topics and Definitions.
- Cadre of Assessment Mentors.
- Request a Mentor.

Questions regarding the Assessment Mentoring Program, contact Mary Ann Danielson.

RECOMMENDED READING
METACOGNITIVE RESOURCES

In *When & Where to Teach Metacognitive Skills to College Students*, Dr. Aaron Richmond at Metro State University in Colorado shares his argument for more explicit efforts to teach metacognitive skills in college, and to consider across-the-curriculum efforts.

Additional resources on metacognition can be found on the Improve with Metacognition website whose primary focus is on the process of learning academic materials and skills, with an emphasis on metacognition related to learning within the higher education environment. The site offers metacognition resources, blog essays and opportunities for collaboration. *Sign up to receive monthly postings.*

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS AND NOMINATIONS

Nominations are open for the 2017 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education, which recognizes innovators who have dedicated themselves to improving education. *Submission deadline: Oct. 31.*

Workshop proposals are now being accepted for the AALHE Annual Conference, June 12-14, 2017. *Proposal Application, | Email Proposal.* *Submission deadline: Nov. 18.*

2016-2017 CONFERENCES

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

*Women in Educational Leadership 30th Annual Conference*, Oct. 9-10, Lincoln, NE.


*International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning (ISETL), Oct. 13-15, Salt Lake City, UT.*

*Assessment Institute 2016*, Oct. 16-18, Indianapolis, IN.

Lilly National Conference on Evidence-Based Teaching and Learning, Oct. 20-22, Traverse City, MI.

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD) Conference, Nov. 9-13, Louisville, KY.

Banff Symposium on Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Nov. 10-12, Calgary, Canada.

Online Learning Consortium Annual International Conference, Nov. 16-18, Orlando, FL.

Original Lilly Conference, Nov. 17-20, Oxford, OH.


American Council on Education Annual Meeting; Mar. 11-14, 2017, Washington, DC.

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), Through the Eye of the Needle: Conference on the Commitment to Justice in Jesuit Higher Education. Seattle University, Aug. 10-13, 2017, Seattle, WA.

Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education (AALHE) Conference, June 12-14, 2017, Louisville, KY.