



Bufs Improve!

A WTAMU OUTCOMES & IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to this Brave New World!

Dan Stroud
Director of Assessment

Whoa! Did I complete my assessment for this project? Have I recorded the data and stored it away for future evaluation? Do I have a plan that will offer meaningful changes to my program for the benefit of future Buffalos?

These are only a few of the questions that can shape our courses and programs each academic year. Professors make changes that bring improvements to their programs each and every year. The problem is, those changes many times are not recorded in a manner that aids efficiency and proactivity.

It can be agreed upon rather easily, that the mere mention of assessment can bring any faculty member's blood pressure to a boil. The question we need to answer is why this is the case? The purpose of assessment has long been an issue across the nation on college and univer-

sity campuses.

Well, this year the IE office has worked on two things in general.

First, we sought ways to help faculty make assessment more meaningful to them. If we believe assessment to be a worthwhile exercise, then it becomes important to show that internally first, only paying homage to external reviewers as a secondary gesture. This allows us to improve for ourselves and for our students primarily, then describing our work secondarily to our accrediting bodies.

The second thing IRA set about to do, after hearing from many faculty about the time suck that assessment was (heard it before, just were not listening as closely as we should have), we set out to find ways to make our professors' lives just a little easier. Job one was to stab the beast that was already in the room, the dreaded LARS Management Sys-

tem. Though it served its purpose, the clunky system was incredibly frustrating to navigate.

So, we've (no pun intended) set out to build a better mousetrap. In the end, after consultation with several companies, we actually acquired a new and much more user-friendly system that will make our assessment and improvement efforts much stronger! It is a separate system entirely from the original and the spring semester will be spent on transferring information from the old system to the new. You will now have assessment reports stored in yearly folders. You should find this organization tool much easier to use.

Simply set an appointment and I will come to you for a quick rundown of the new system.

~ Dan Stroud

Editor

Dan Stroud, Director of Assessment

Contributors

Assessment Deadline

2021-22 Results due by
August 1, 2022.

Inside this issue:

New Day	1
Update	2
Program	3
Roundup	4