

THE ASSESSMENT CHRONICLES

OF LANEY COLLEGE

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FACULTY PRESENTATIONS

by David Mitchell

Some of you were there for the moving presentations that six Laney faculty members gave on the Thursday of flex week in the Student Center. Cat Brewer from Communications, Pinar Alscher from Chemistry, Andree Thompson from Art, Adrienne Oliver from English, Pat Reed from ESOL and Alicia Caballero Christenson from Latin American Studies all talked about their assessment of Institutional Learning Outcome #4—Global Awareness, Ethics and Civic Responsibility.

The instructors spoke about the assignments they gave their students to assess the ILO and the very personal and often transformative work their students produced—everything from class presentations to essays to sculptures and paintings to experiences working at the Laney Ecology Festival. The six teachers also covered the results they got from their students—how, as a result of these projects, students changed their beliefs, attitudes and even their behavior with regard to civic responsibility, ethics, the environment, and cultural diversity.

After the faculty presentations on the assignments and their students' results, we had an open discussion of what these results of ILO #4 assessment mean for instructors, for numerous Laney disciplines and for the college as a whole. Below are a few of the many thoughtful comments that instructors offered during the discussion:

- It's vital that we hear what other instructors at Laney are doing in their classrooms. There is interesting and even exciting work going on in classrooms around this campus, but this work is happening in isolation. We need to know about all the great instruction that's going on here.
- I'm interested in introducing the topics of sustainability and the environment into my Machine Tech classes, but these issues are not often encouraged in my discipline. Sometimes tech people are uncomfortable talking about these ideas that they feel are outside their discipline. I need support in how to bring up these topics in class because they do fit into my discipline.
- I was impressed by the breadth of disciplines that assessed ILO #4. The ILOs seem general enough that they could be applied to many different areas.

- If you struggle with how to assess SLOs and ILOs, these assignments and projects really give you some great ideas on how to assess your students.
- We think SLO and ILO assessment is such a challenging process, but we're already doing it in our classrooms as we've seen today.
- To me, all of these presentations are united around the "ethics" aspect of the ILO. These presentations all involved values—doing the right thing and changing attitudes and the world in positive ways.
- These faculty presentations are a great way for us to learn from our fellow Laney instructors. Let's do more of them!

WHAT NOW?

by Cheli Fossum and David Mitchell

Now that we've assessed ILO #4, where do we go from here? What do the results and these presentations mean for Laney College as a whole? One of the things we hope is that we can include some aspect of ILO #4 in almost every class on campus. The ILO is so encompassing—global awareness, ethics, civic responsibility, community engagement, environmental responsibility, social justice and cultural diversity--how can it NOT be something that touches (almost) every course?

As a matter of fact, we'd like to know how you are incorporating or would like to incorporate an aspect of this ILO into an assignment in your class. **If you have any assignments or projects that you give students, or other ways of using aspects of ILO #4 in your classes, please share them with us** (mfossum@peralta.edu) or (djmitchell@peralta.edu). We'd also like to know **if you have ideas** for how we can incorporate some aspect of this ILO into most Laney College classes. We'll publish the best ideas in the next issue of "The Assessment Chronicles" so that other faculty can read about your ideas and become inspired to use or adapt them in their own classes. As one of the instructors commented after the flex day presentations, we need to know about the exciting work that's going on in classes at Laney, and sharing this work and our ideas in this publication is one way to discover what's happening behind classroom doors!

Institutional Learning Outcome #4:

Global Awareness, Ethics and Civic Responsibility

Students will be prepared to practice community engagement that addresses one or more of the following: environmental responsibility, social justice, and cultural diversity.