
Action Project

Title: Using Data in Continuous Quality Improvement through Documentation of Student Learning

Version: 2

Institution: Red Rocks Community College

Status: Active

Submitted: 2010-03-15

Category: 7-Measuring Effectiveness

Timeline

Planned project kickoff date: 2010-09-15

Target completion date: 2011-03-12

Actual completion date:

Project Detail

Project Goal

Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer

Design and populate a web presence to showcase best practices in documenting teaching and student learning excellence. The dissemination of best practice will incorporate multiple modalities to ensure broad sharing and awareness of teaching and learning strategies occurring throughout the college.

Reasons For Project

Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities

Feedback from the initial System's Portfolio indicated the "opportunity for the College to develop a performance measurement system that supplies critical data and information about key processes and results. The College may benefit from continuing their efforts to collect data on their specific initiatives, such as their Action Projects, and use the results to continuously improve upon their effectiveness." This Action Project will use existing data of assessment results to focus the use of these data in planning continuous improvement.

Organizational Areas Affected

List the organizational areas -- institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project

Initially faculty are involved in providing the assessment of student learning results as evidence of Academic Excellence to create the web showcase. Plans are underway to develop similar strategies to collect and document evidence of assessment results from learning support service areas throughout the college as a next phase for this Action Project.

Key Organizational Process(es)

Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve

Collect and analyze information to drive performance improvement.

Project Time Frame Rationale

Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion)

Efforts to collect and organize the assessment of student learning results have been underway since January, 2009. As a result the foundations for the project are in place and the project itself is well positioned to be completed in a six month time frame.

Project Success Monitoring

Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing

After the publication of the data, the faculty member that has accepted lead in the documentation process will collect faculty responses using focus groups and surveys to investigate how faculty intend to use the new

assessment of student learning information website in their continuous quality improvement efforts . The results of the survey and focus group information will be reported in the September, 2011 Action Project updates.

Project Outcome Measures

Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals

Quantitative measurements will include the number of faculty participating in preparing their assessment of student learning results for publication and meeting the timeline for publication to the website. Qualitative measurements include results of the faculty surveys and focus groups to document how the data is being used in continuous quality improvement.

Annual Update

Project Accomplishments and Status

Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project

The web presence has been initiated featuring consistent documentation of student learning outcomes by program areas. www.rccc.edu/edu

Institution Involvement

Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project

A lead faculty member created a central point of contact in the collection and web publishing of the documentation. The lead faculty member was available to meet individually with faculty and/or with program areas and departments. The focus initially was to capture and document in a central location evidence of quality instruction.

Next Steps

Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project

The web presence was purposefully developed to resonate with audiences external to the college community in an effort to clearly and consistently articulate how the college is achieving our mission of excellence in education. The shifting of the audience focused faculty in articulating student learning outcomes from their areas in summative terms of successful preparation of students for continued education and or employment. Next steps include trend analysis of completion rates, employment placement and improvement in the enrollment and completion of underserved populations by program area.

Resulting Effective Practices

Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project

Creating a single point of contact and developing a consistent format to collect, document, and publish the information proved to be the most successful component of the project. Now that the foundation has been laid and a plan for continued updating has been put in place, a strong buy-in and commitment from faculty has been instilled to continue this most important communication of what we do as a college and how our students are benefitting from the education received. As faculty contemplates new programs and or program modifications the discussion of documentation of the quality of student learning is now part of the initial development conversations, instead, as has been the case in the past...well after the program has already been in place.

Project Challenges

What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project

Given the success of developing a central repository and consistent format for the collection and documentation of student learning by programs, the college will use this structure to fully examine the delivery of developmental education across multiple program areas. This effort will be launched statewide, which underscores the need to develop consistent data tracking mechanisms across multiple campuses. RRCC is well positioned because of the lessons learned from this action project to assist in a leadership /mentoring role with other colleges in collection and documentation of student learning outcomes.
