

## Eight institutions accredited by Higher Learning Commission working to improve student learning through assessment

August 30, 2023 – Eight colleges and universities in the Midwest are aiming to take student learning to a higher level with help from the Higher Learning Commission’s Assessment Academy.

Teams from a variety of institutions in Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio and Nebraska are the latest to graduate from HLC’s Assessment Academy, which has been a leader for nearly two decades in using assessment as a tool in bolstering student learning.

The new graduates include: Ashland University in Ashland, Ohio; Wilbur Wright College, which is part of the City Colleges of Chicago, Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio; Crowley’s Ridge College in Paragould, Arkansas; Kansas City Kansas Community College; Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Ohio; Metropolitan Community College in Omaha, Nebraska; and Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois.

During the Academy that was held from June 2019 through June 2023 participants identified best practices for assessing student learning; each engaged their community members in the student-learning assessment process; they identified and trained leaders in effective assessment techniques; and they worked to build a culture and commitment to using assessment regularly as a means to improve student learning for the long term.

Each institution also came up with its own individual project and area of focus. Projects being implemented include development of institution-wide learning outcomes and institution-wide training at Ashland University, development of an integrated approach to assessment, curriculum development, program review and professional development at Lorain County Community College and implementation of a college-wide assessment plan for Wheaton College.

“HLC routinely identifies assessment as an area where colleges and universities seek improvement. The Academy provides the tools needed for better assessment, and we believe these institutions are on track as a result for improved student learning,” said Barbara Gellman-Danley, president of HLC.

To learn more about HLC’s Assessment Academy, visit:

<https://www.hlcommission.org/Programs-Events/assessment-academy-experience.html>