

Taft College Partnership Resource Team (PRT) Summary Report Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative

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Areas of Focus

1. Assessing SLOs and ensuring dialogue and continuous improvement
2. Professional development related to SLOs and “closing the loop”
3. Improved Program Review process that better integrates SLO assessment

Summary by Area of Focus

SLO Assessment

Taft College had five objectives in their Innovation and Effectiveness Plan:

1. Consistently assess SLOs for all programs (collect data)
2. Consistently analyze SLOs for all programs
3. Consistently evaluate SLOs for all programs (“close the loop” with follow-up)
4. Fully integrate the assessment of CSLOs and PSLOs into PR, including analysis and dialog at department/ program level
5. Systematically Assess the effective use of financial resources and the impact of program changes as a result of implemented PR recommendations

Progress

The college made significant progress in all five objectives through:

1. Establishing a policy and process for institutional SLO days, giving faculty time to evaluate and have dialogue.
2. Providing targeted professional development that improved and simplified the process, and increased reflection and commitment to SLO assessment.
3. Establishing a simplified PR process that better incorporates student learning and provides clear linkage to goals and resources.
4. There was significant and admirable progress between the first two visits and the final visit. The college climate was much improved and faculty, administration and staff were engaging in thoughtful dialogue and reflection. There was a much clearer understanding of the processes, and a commitment to continuous improvement.
5. The last meeting was a welcome closing of the loop for the college and the team. We were impressed with the level of engagement, commitment and improved processes and governance.

The PRT comments were:

- Remarkable progress in such a short time
- Taft college could be a model for other small, rural colleges

Taft College should be congratulated for its cultural shift from perceiving SLO assessment as an unneeded burden to seeing it as a valuable process for improving student learning. In addition, the improved collaboration bodes well for sustainability of their efforts and improvements.