The Middle Child: Sophomore Transition Programs for Success

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Goals

- Establish perspectives regarding respective schools
  - Niagara University
  - Rochester Institute of Technology

- Provide Research and Literature Findings

- Discuss Practical Assessment Efforts

- Group Exercise

Establishing a Perspective

- Niagara University
  - John Sauter
    - Assistant to the Dean for Academic Affairs
    - College of Arts & Sciences

- Rochester Institute of Technology
  - Michael D'Arcangelo,
    - Director of the Center for Campus Life

Research and Literature

- Advising Issues (Anderson & Schreiner 2000)

  - Curricular Malaise

  - Majors & Careers

  - Integration / Involvement

  - Motivation

    - Other Considerations

Research and Literature

- Curriculum Issues (Gaff 2000)
  - General Education Requirements

    - Major Coursework

    - Faculty Connections

    - Loss of First-Year Academic Community

Research and Literature

- Syndrome Effect (Freedman, 1956)
    - Social Alienation

    - Financial (Aid) Strain

    - Intensified Curriculum

    - Changing Relationships

Research and Literature

- Student Development Theory
  - Lemons and Richards (1987) relate Chickering & Reisser (1993)

  - Four vectors unique to the sophomore year

    - Competence

    - Autonomy (Instrumental and Emotional)

    - Developing Purpose

    - Identity Development

Research and Literature

■ Assessing Expectations vs. Satisfaction Levels (Juillerat, 2000)

■ Assessed the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) utilizing consumer theory

■ Sophomores have higher expectations, thus increased dissatisfaction

■ Differences between public and privates

■ Institutional type talk

Assessment Efforts

- Niagara University
  - Institutional
    - Senior Survey
    - College Senior Survey
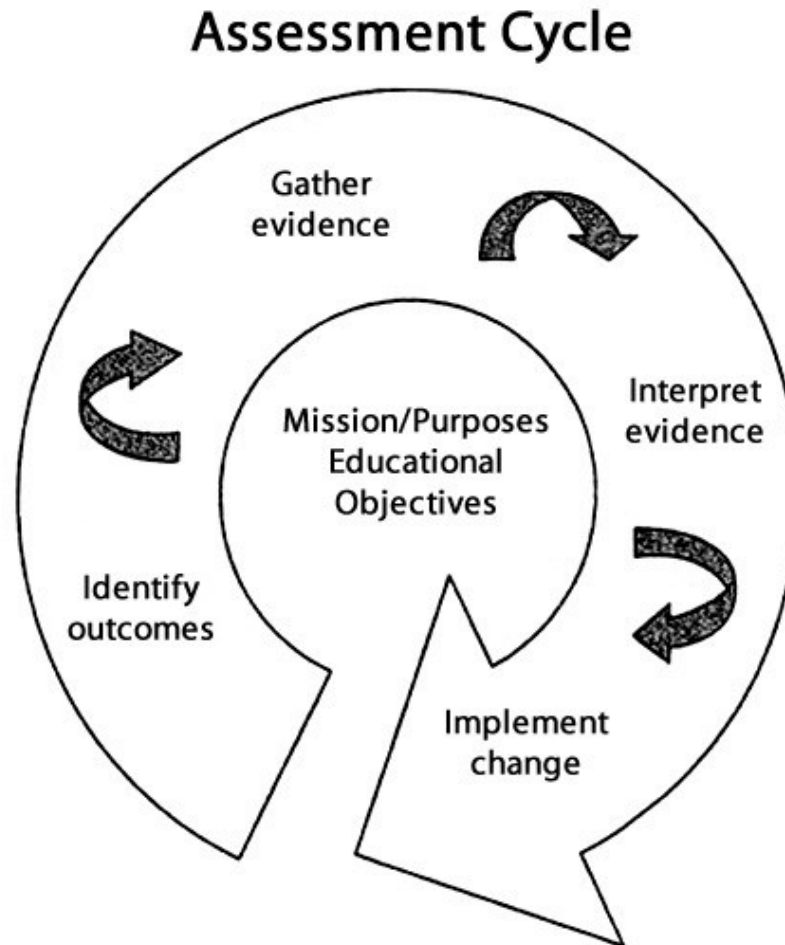   - Exit Survey
  - National Data
    - CIRP
    - NSSE
- RIT
  - Institutional
    - Environmental Scan
    - Departmental Surveys
    - EBI-Surveys
    - Student Focus Groups (Spring)

Assessment Process

- Mission
- Assessment
  - Needs
- Stakeholders & Champions
- Resources
  - People
  - Finances
  - Data
- Outcomes & Reflection
- Programs

Assessment Cycle

Group Exercise

- What are the sophomores need that you see?

- How do you know?

- What can you do?

Where do we go from here?

Process At your Campus?

- Stakeholders & Champions
- Resources
- Outcomes & Reflection
- Programs

- Networking to Continue the Conversation

  Exchange Ideas - "Best of"

  Benchmark when appropriate

Questions?