**August 26 Workshop to Focus on General Education and Assessment**

Members of the General Education Subcommittee and PARC encourage all full- and part-time academic faculty to attend a fall workshop that will have two focuses: the findings and recommendations from the recently completed 2009 General Education Program Review and the results of the PARC Assessment Survey implemented this spring.

Dr. Paul Neill, director of UNR’s Core Curriculum and the external reviewer for the program review, will be the featured speaker. After Dr. Neill’s initial remarks, he will answer questions, and then there will be a guided discussion among WNC faculty about general education topics, including the general education student learning outcomes, the general education degree requirements, the rationale for the general education program, and methods of assessing the general education student learning outcomes.

After the general education portion of the workshop, the results of PARC’s Assessment Survey will be discussed.

The Aug. 26 workshop runs from 9 a.m. until noon in Reynolds 103 (the lecture hall) on the Carson Campus. -cb

**WNC Assessment Plan to be Updated for 2010-2015**

Starting this fall, PARC will coordinate efforts to update the college-wide assessment plan. All components of the assessment plan will be reviewed in light of the college’s mission and goals, including:

- the organizational structure for assessment
- the identification of instructional and administrative programs to be assessed
- processes, procedures, and resources for conducting and documenting assessment activities

Over the next academic year, PARC will solicit input from faculty and staff throughout the college to develop a set of goals for each of the five years of the plan.

One of the most important challenges in the near future will be to develop ways to systematically assess general education student learning outcomes. PARC will work closely with the General Education Subcommittee and other faculty to write goals related to assessment of general education outcomes. -cb

**Dates to Remember:**

- **August 26**
  - Fall Assessment Workshop on General Education
  - 9 a.m. until noon
- **September**
  - Program Review Teams and Internal and External Reviewers are selected
- **September**
  - Academic Program Review Teams begin updating outlines for core courses
- **October 12**
  - Administrative Program Review Teams submit additional questions for fall Program Review Survey
- **November 9-23**
  - Program Review Survey open
- **December 18**
  - Administrative Program Review Teams receive survey data from Institutional Research

**2009 General Education Program Review**

**2009 PARC Assessment & Accreditation Survey**

**2005-2010 WNC Assessment Plan**
As the academic year begins in the fall, so begins the work of organizing Program Review Teams for ten academic programs and four administrative departments or programs. Members of PARC, including the assessment coordinator in Institutional Research, are available to help teams from the start of the process to the end.

To begin, Division Chairs (academic programs) and Deans, Directors, or Coordinators (administrative programs) work with faculty and staff to determine membership of the teams and to choose Internal and External Reviewers. These selections should be forwarded to the Chair of PARC by September.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Once teams are formed, they begin the work of updating outlines for core courses in preparation for the curriculum review process. Teams should complete the curriculum review by the end of the fall semester. Also in the fall, staff in Institutional Research will provide a Summary Data Sheet and an Enrollment and Scheduling History Report for each program being reviewed.

Administrative Programs
Program Review Teams work with staff in Institutional Research to write questions for the fall Program Review Survey, which all WNC employees are asked to respond to. In addition to a common set of questions asked about every department being reviewed, each department can ask additional questions to gather further evidence of satisfaction.

2008-2009 Reviews
Successful program review self-study reports were completed for Early Childhood Education (AAS, Certificate), General Education, and Financial Assistance. The reviews for the two academic programs also benefited from bringing external reviewers to the Carson campus for site visits, student focus groups, and exit interviews with executive faculty. To close the loop on these program reviews, PARC will meet with each team in the fall to exchange feedback on the process and the self-study report. Each team will also complete an Action Plan and meet with executive faculty to discuss the findings and recommendations from the program review. -cb