nuventive

Overview

INSTITUTION:
GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROFILE:
Guam Community College is the only public two-year vocational institution in the U.S. territory of Guam serving the island's population of over 150,000 people.

CHALLENGE:
Integrate assessment processes into day-to-day college activities while reducing the burden of faculty, staff and administrators in fulfilling their assessment responsibilities.

SOLUTION:
Guam Community College chose TracDat to provide a dynamic tool that gives control of assessment to faculty and staff and allows them to continuously plan, collect data, report, and implement assessment results that lead to incremental improvements at the course, program and institutional levels.

BENEFITS:
√ Systematic approach establishes a common understanding and language
√ Define and align goals among all levels of the institution
√ Develop, document, review and revise assessment plan
√ Easy access to supporting documents and evidence
√ Robust reporting
√ Real time visibility into the assessment process
√ Supporting documents and evidence linked to the plan
√ Integrate new strategies for continuous improvement
√ Monitor and report on progress

Guam Community College Depends on TracDat for a Rich Harvest of Evidence for Accountability and Improvement

"...TracDat is delivering on the promise of helping Guam Community College substantially improve the process for demonstrating continuous improvement."

R. Ray D. Somera, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs

Since the January 2003 implementation of TracDat, Guam Community College has accomplished great strides in assessment and accreditation. President Mary A. Y. Okada and Dr. R. Ray D. Somera, Academic Vice President, continue to be staunch advocates of this dynamic tool that has allowed the college to implement an embedded assessment system and process that is SLO-based, faculty-driven, electronically-managed, administration facilitated, and provides for continuous engagement with accreditation issues the whole year round.

Although Guam Community College began the implementation of a comprehensive assessment process in the fall of 2000, the former president quickly realized that it needed more momentum. He felt strongly that the college needed a consistent, institution-wide approach to break the sporadic cycle of assessment initiatives. The college also needed a solid framework to further develop and sustain the administration's campus-wide comprehensive assessment and institutional improvement initiative.

A key criteria for the college was to select a solution that was flexible enough to incorporate current successful assessment practices that were familiar to the constituents. After an extensive search, Guam Community College selected Nuventive TracDat. "We chose TracDat after a lengthy and systematic search because the solution fit the unique assessment needs of our institution and it was highly recommended by other post-secondary institutions," said Dr. Ray Somera. "In particular, the Dynamic Labeling feature of TracDat facilitated the transition from the paper process to the electronic environment," explained Dr. Somera. "We avoided confusion with our

users by continuing to employ the same terminologies that they have grown accus-
tomed to in prior years while at the same time adopting a new electronic process."

Painless Transition

"A particularly valuable component of the Nuventive solution was the process fol-
lowed by their consulting services staff. The team was very thorough in working
with us to map the existing assessment process on campus to the extensive capabili-
ties of the 'new' system" said Dr. Somera. "Because we wanted the transition from
hard copy to the online environment to be smooth and effortless, we focused on
retaining some 'accepted' assessment model structures. The consultants were quick
to explore the features of the software with us so that this important part of the
assessment culture on campus was preserved."

Results, Results and Results

"Guam Community College places a great deal of emphasis on the use of assess-
ment results," said Dr Somera. "TracDat is used to monitor how programs, services
or units are keeping track of their own implementation strategies. Are action plans
being implemented in the classroom so that changes in pedagogy are realized? Are
services or administrative units using their assessment results to expand or contract
service areas, as deemed necessary? How do all of these initiatives directly or indi-
rectly impact student learning? When answers to these and other related questions
are captured in TracDat, we can monitor annual progress of individual programs or
services through the stages of planning, data collection, reporting and implementa-
tion of results. We are thus able to document incremental improvements that pro-
grams or units have put into practice over time, and most importantly, the impact
of these improvements in sustaining student learning and achievement at the col-
lege," he continued. "We are proud to have developed a virtual tour of our assess-
ment process for our WASC accreditors prior to their arrival on campus in February
2006. TracDat played a large part in making this project possible. We gave our
visiting team full access to TracDat because we are confident that our growing
body of assessment evidence will give our accreditors a chance to explore a wide
array of materials ranging from assessment plans and reports to student artifacts.
TracDat is delivering on the promise of helping Guam Community College substan-
tially improve the process for demonstrating continuous improvement," Dr. Somera
emphasized.