The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

Minneapolis Community and Technical College

Project Details

Title	Feasibility study: Electronic portfolio assessment of general education core competencies	**Status**	ACTIVE
Category	1-Helping Students Learn	**Updated**	
Timeline		**Reviewed**	
Planned Project Kickoff	09-01-2011	**Created**	03-31-2011
Target Completion	12-31-2011	**Version**	1

1: Project Goal

A: The goals of this project are to: 1) develop recommendations on use of electronic portfolios for assessment of the College's four general education competencies (critical thinking, communications, social responsibility, and personal responsibility/life skills) and, if appropriate, 2) develop a plan for piloting electronic portfolios across multiple liberal arts and career/technical education programs/departments. At a minimum, the Action Project team will conduct research on: 1) the strengths and weaknesses of electronic portfolios, 2) faculty views on using electronic portfolios for assessment, 3) the use of electronic portfolios for institution-level assessment and 5) costs of implementing and scaling up electronic portfolios across courses and programs.

2: Reasons For Project

A: MCTC has established an effective assessment process that has produced very engaged instruction and assessment in some academic departments. However, the approach to assessing the general education core competencies is not as systematic as it could be. Additionally, MCTC has a need to assess institution-level learning outcomes. Finally, students have not been personally engaged in assessment of their own learning on the core competencies and electronic portfolios would provide a portable option for students to demonstrate their learning.

3: Organizational Areas Affected

A: Academic Affairs, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Information Technology, web design personnel in Marketing, the Strategy, Planning and Accountability office, the Assessment Coordinator and the Social Responsibility Assessment Coordinator.

4: Key Organizational Process(es)

A: Assessment of student learning on MCTC's four general education core competencies.

5: Project Time Frame Rationale

A: Because the goal of this action project is to conduct research and develop a plan for using electronic portfolios rather than conduct a pilot project, this project should last less than six months. By starting the project in September, faculty will be able to participate in this project. By ending in December, if the feasibility study suggests E-folios would be a valuable assessment option at MCTC, a pilot E-folio project could be run during Spring semester.

6: Project Success Monitoring

A: During the first team meeting, we will establish a schedule for the project with clear milestones. We will monitor our progress by timely completion of the milestones we've established (e.g. completion of a search of electronic portfolio use for general education assessment).

7: Project Outcome Measures

A:

1. The primary outcome is the successful completion of a set of recommendations on the use of electronic portfolios and a well-researched plan for a pilot project by December 2011.
2. A secondary outcome is the participation of one representative from each stakeholder group (listed in item E) in the majority of project meetings, an indicator of stakeholder engagement.