The California Community College Common Assessment System

Two initiatives are underway to meet the objective of AB 743 to develop a:

> "common assessment system to be used as one of multiple measures, ...
> for the purposes of community college placement and advisement."

These initiatives each support the creation of a Common Assessment System for California Community Colleges, including the selection of a content assessment instrument, research and modeling on multiple measures of assessment, and the creation of a data warehouse that enables the use of multiple measures in assessment and placement decisions.

The efforts – including key project partners and primary goals – are defined below.

The Multiple Measures Assessment Project
http://rpgroup.org/projects/multiple-measures-assessment-project

The Multiple Measures Assessment Project (MMAP) is a collaborative effort led by Educational Results Partnerships' system Cal-PASS Plus and the RP Group, with support from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO). This project will result in the development of a data warehouse, a comprehensive analytical model, and fully-developed user tools to support college-level analysis of multiple measures for assessment and student placement. The MMAP research team is engaged with 14 pilot colleges from across the state who have agreed to provide feedback on the predictive models and user tools to help inform the process.

The Multiple Measures Assessment Project has three primary objectives:

1. Develop a secure, large and robust data warehouse to collect, store and analyze multiple measures which will include high school transcript and test data, as well as MIS and placement test data for each community college.

2. Identify, analyze and validate known multiple measures data points, drawing directly from research obtained through the STEPS pilot, and leverage predictive analytic software to identify new data points that can serve as effective multiple measures.

3. Engage pilot colleges throughout the process to assist in development of the analytic tools and user interface, and to test the tools and models using local college data supplied through the data warehouse.

The Common Assessment Initiative (CAI)   http://cccassess.org/about

The CCCCO awarded the CAI grant to Butte College as the lead agency in partnership with Cal-PASS Plus, Saddleback College, and the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges (ASCCC). Under the guidance of the CAI Steering Committee and its workgroups, the partners are working on the following objectives:

- Develop a common test for English, Mathematics, and English as a Second Language for all California Community Colleges.
- Reduce the need for re-assessment of Community College Students by increasing the portability.
- Increase the effectiveness and accuracy of test placement for students placing at or below college level.
- Lower remediation rates for California Community College students and increase the initial placement level for students.
- Increase awareness of the importance of placement tests and improved student preparation.
- Assist colleges with efforts to improve local assessment and placement practices.
- Reduce the cost of assessment related activities at the district/college level.
- Leverage Multiple Measures data and research to lower the number of assessment tests issued and to improve placement.

The CAI will leverage the work of MMAP to create a comprehensive, web-based platform for a common assessment in English, Math, and ESL. The platform will include tools based on multiple measures to support faculty and staff in the effective assessment and placement of students.

The CAI Steering Committee has and will widely engage faculty and community college leaders in the development of assessments, the testing platform, the student and faculty experience and related products and tools as part of the initiative. The 12 Common Assessment Pilot colleges will also be engaged throughout the development of the CAI to gain local user input and direction. The Common Assessment pilot colleges (which include several MMAP pilot colleges) will experiment with multiple measures as alternative forms of assessment, perhaps being used for some students in lieu of or in combination with an assessment test of content knowledge. The CAI created a Multiple Measures Work Group with the purpose of advising the committee on multiple measures assessment, the MMAP research team also engages with this subcommittee for feedback and recommendations on the multiple measures research being conducted.

For more information please contact **Ken Sorey** (CalPASS-Plus) at ken@edresults.org or **Mallory Newell** (The RP Group) at newellmallory@fhda.edu or **Jennifer Coleman** (Butte College) at colemanje@cccnext.net .