

CAPE Career Achievement in Assessment Award

Academic assessment in various forms at MCC has been going on now for nearly twenty years. Throughout that period, a small cadre of faculty members has emerged as the College's core leadership in assessment. These are the folks that, in the past, pioneered SUNY General Education Assessment, served on various committees defining the role assessment would play at the College, and helped colleagues unfamiliar with assessment learn all the ins-and-outs. This kind of faculty involvement in assessment ensures continuity, and helps the College maintain its integrity in the application of assessment results to institutional operation. It also ensures faculty ownership of assessment.

The College Assessment and Program Evaluation Committee of the Faculty Senate wishes to recognize those individuals at MCC who, over time, have helped build our still-emerging culture of assessment. Today, CAPE honors one such faculty member who has largely been an unsung hero for her department and the larger college community in the practice of academic assessment.

This senior faculty member has served her department in many important ways during her tenure at MCC. Her strong support of and involvement in her department's ongoing business paid off significant dividends when, in 2007, she submitted her department's first-ever completed program evaluation project. For those less familiar with the history of assessment at the College, it is important to note that as recent as 2008, the review and assessment of MCC's degree programs was done largely without a roadmap. Faculty Senate guidelines were much less helpful in promoting useful assessment, and institutional knowledge and support for assessment had not reached the threshold that we have observed today with the other projects being honored. This faculty member's first program review report was widely recognized among deans and faculty familiar with assessment as one of a few that were regarded as "models" for others to emulate. Even today, with more complete and structured guidelines to govern the program evaluation process, that initial report still compares favorably to others currently produced.

What undoubtedly led to the success of that project, and to the success of her follow-up project honored earlier today, is the faculty member's commitment to using assessment for the benefit of her students, her program, and her department. This faculty member was among the first at the College to insist that guidelines governing assessment "work in the interests of students and faculty," and that we not conduct assessment as busy work. This attitude and message was shared openly with colleagues serving on the College's Reading Committee – a team that had been assembled to assess ways in which student deficiencies in reading could be strategically remediated. Throughout the past several years, this faculty member has been a beacon of support for assessment at the Damon City Campus, where she has openly and freely served colleagues in other departments and disciplines as an informal advisor for those leading their own assessment projects.

Announcing her retirement earlier this year, effective at the end of our current contract, this faculty member's departure represents a loss to the MCC community in many ways. For today, we salute her efforts to promote and sustain effective practices in assessment, both for her department, and for MCC.

Please join me in honoring ***Susan Cable*** from the Department of Law and Criminal Justice as the recipient of CAPE's first-ever Career Award in Assessment.