

News from the Network

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Upcoming Events

- 2022 Fall Forum (*hybrid event*)

Nov. 3, 2022 - Virtual (live) presentations will be offered in the afternoon.

Nov. 4, 2022 - An in-person, all-day conference at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA).

Accepting [proposals now](#).

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- For online access to the latest issue of the [Journal of Assessment & Institutional Effectiveness](#)
- Visit the [Job Board](#) to see what's out there
- Access the recordings of [any and all of our webinars](#)
- [Contact us](#) with your ideas, interests, and what you might like to see next issue of this quarterly newsletter
- **If you're not a member and these benefits sound attractive to you, consider [joining NOW](#)**

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Member Spotlight



Marlene Clapp

SUCCESS Institutional Research Analyst,
Massachusetts Association of Community
Colleges (MACC)

Member Spotlight: Marlene Clapp (cont.)

What is your current professional position/title?

I joined the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC) in January 2022 to serve as the institutional research analyst supporting the SUCCESS fund initiative. SUCCESS (Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services) is an innovative collaboration among the 15 Massachusetts Community Colleges, the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC), and the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE). SUCCESS grants to the community colleges are meant to provide wraparound supports and services to improve outcomes for their most underserved populations including, but not limited to, low-income, first-generation, minority, and disabled students and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students. These wraparound support activities are meant to build on proven successful support services, and include peer mentors, academic skills workshops, field trips to four-year universities, targeted academic, career, transfer, and scholarship advising, and other vital supports. SUCCESS was funded by the Massachusetts legislature at \$14 million in FY2022. As the SUCCESS Institutional Research Analyst, I serve as the centralized institutional research resource for the initiative. In my role, I coordinate data collection required for reporting on the SUCCESS initiative. This includes developing systems for collecting student level data and aggregating program information as well as supporting campus efforts to provide this information. My efforts will help to build the case for the

sustained programmatic support, through drafting ongoing briefs, a participation and outcomes dashboard, and an annual report written in collaboration with the SUCCESS Initiative Project Director, Lutful Khan.

How did you discover the Network?

I have been a member of NEean for so many years that I cannot recall how I first discovered the network! However, I looked into joining the NEean board upon recommendation of a colleague who was active in NEean and a member of the board himself. NEean has been a great resource and support network. It was especially helpful to me in my last role when I took over as director for a fairly young institutional effectiveness office that had responsibility for overseeing assessment, among other duties.

Why does assessment matter to you and your colleagues?

While my current role is very focused on institutional research, assessment still plays a large role in what I do. Tracking outcomes to build the case for sustained support of SUCCESS by the Massachusetts legislature is critical. There are several system-wide short-term and long-term outcomes centered around improvements to retention and graduation. These outcomes include capturing qualitative data on student perceptions of belonging, engagement, and satisfaction. Individual colleges may also have institution-specific outcomes for SUCCESS that they seek to track.

Member Spotlight: Marlene Clapp (cont.)

What is your favorite vacation spot/activity?

Like many people, I have not been able to travel much over the past couple of years due to the pandemic. However, I was fortunate to have had one of the best vacations ever in January 2020 right before most everything shut down. I visited Terceira Island in the Azores with a good friend I met many years ago while working at Boston College (my very first job upon moving to Massachusetts!). The vacation was the perfect balance of relaxation and interesting places to explore and experience. The food was great and the people warm and welcoming. The scenery was spectacular! The picture I included is me at [the Aqualva Bays in Praia da Vitória](#). My favorite thing to do in the afternoon was to wind down the day at a local café with a coffee (um pingo) and pastry (Pasteis de nata).

Creative Corner: Assessment Haikus

by Heidi Burgiel, Ph.D.

Instructional Technologist at Lasell University

Outcomes assessment:
evaluate student work,
revise, and repeat.



Program assessment:
continuous improvement
well-crafted outcomes



What worked? What didn't?
Responsible to students,
learning as we go

Editor's note: *Many thanks to Heidi Burgeil for taking up our offer to contact us with ideas about what should be included in our quarterly newsletter. Indeed, these wonderfully creative poems about assessment hopefully will serve as an enticement for other members to submit their creative endeavors to our newsletter!*

Year in Review

This past academic year (AY21-22) was a busy one for the Network. Even before the Fall Semester began, we were hard at work organizing another webinar series, to follow on the heels of the series we launched during the first COVID year (AY20-21). In case you missed any of them, then here are the [webinars](#) offered in the past year:

- **Aug. 4, 2021** - *What Does It Mean To Be Competent in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion?*
- **Aug. 11, 2021** - *Applying Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Equity-Centered Assessment*
- **Sept. 14, 2021** - *Building Institutional Infrastructure to Support DEI Assessment*
- **Oct. 20, 2021** - *How can we help each other? The Strategic Partnership between Institutional Research & Assessment*
- **Dec. 7, 2021** - *Applications and Strategies for Implementing Equity-Centered Assessment*
- **Jan. 19, 2022** - *From Stationary to Stacked: Assessing Modular Content*
- **Feb. 15, 2022** - *Making Courses Accessible in the Online Space*
- **Feb. 22, 2022** - *Competency-based Education, Blockchain, and Implications for Learning and Assessment*
- **Mar. 3, 2022** - *Spring Dialogues Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Preview*
- **Apr. 28, 2022** - *Inclusive Assessment for All Learners through the Lens of Design Thinking*
- **May 13, 2022** - *Assessment and STEM Education*

And, of course, we also offered our traditional **Fall Forum** in November and **Spring Dialogues in the Disciplines** in March. Due to the ongoing pandemic, they were once again virtual meetings, but the silver lining is that members have access to the recordings of those events.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Network functions and thrives through a robust committee structure. We would like to invite our members to consider joining us in this work. The following committees are always looking for volunteers: Programming, Communications, and Membership.

If you are interested in any of these committees, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share with them, then please don't hesitate to contact us at neean.assess@gmail.com

THANK YOU to our Annual Sponsors for 2021-22

Our thanks to Weave and Anthology, our sponsors for the 2021 Fall Forum, and to CAST, our sponsor for the 2022 Dialogues in the Disciplines.

