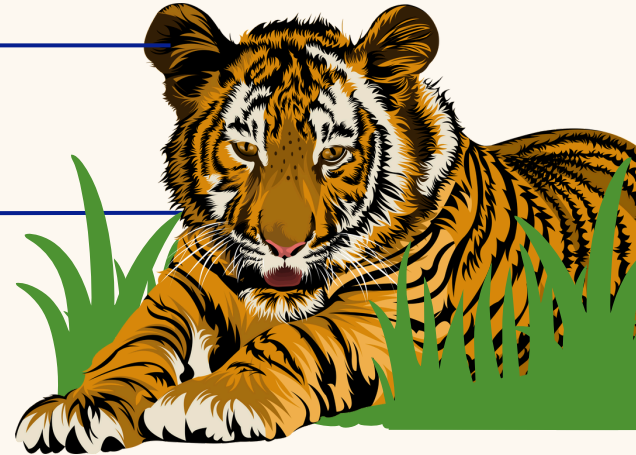


Assessment Newsletter

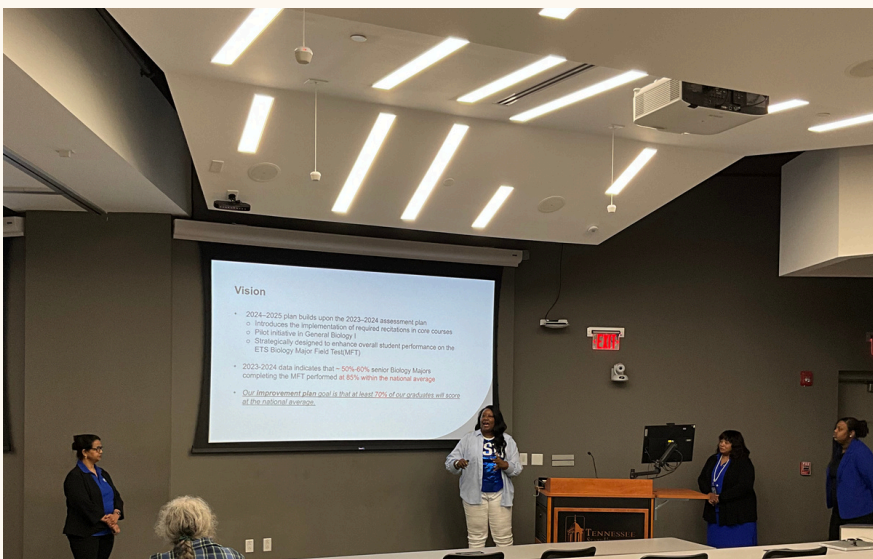
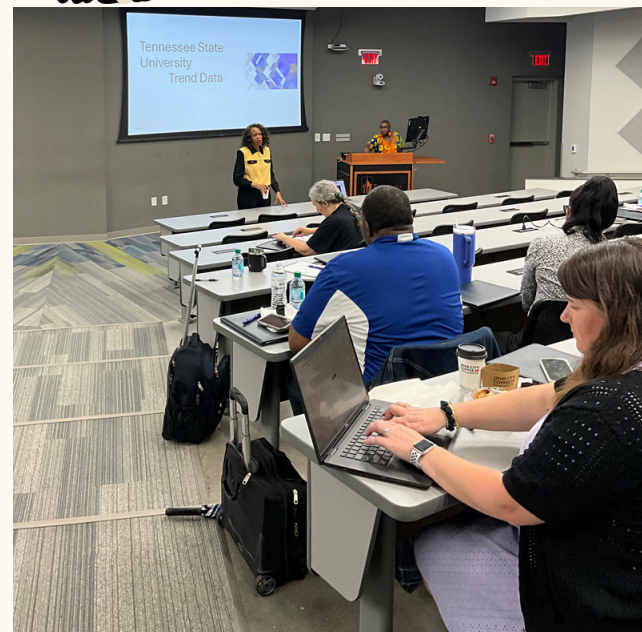
ISSUE NO. 7

Fall 2025



Assessment Development Work Conference 2025: Advancing Learning Improvement at TSU

From May 19–21, 2025, Tennessee State University proudly hosted the Assessment Development Work Conference (ADWC) on campus in the Health Sciences Building. Building upon last year's success, this year's theme, Assessment and Improvement, carried forward our commitment to driving meaningful learning improvement at scale. Participants were invited to consider a core mystery in assessment: Why is learning improvement so rare, given that “using results for improvement” is a foundational purpose of assessment? This question has long challenged the assessment community. Yet, by asking six guiding questions, we can illuminate the hidden connections among assessment, learning environments, and leadership that make improvement possible.



Showcasing Progress: Inaugural Teams

The Inaugural Learning Improvement Project Teams (2023–2024) returned to present their progress. Human Performance and Sports Sciences, Speech & Hearing Sciences, and Urban Studies shared reflections on their projects, demonstrating how they had moved from articulating challenging student learning outcomes to designing targeted interventions and implementing changes within their programs.

Welcoming New Teams

Equally exciting was the debut of our six new Learning Improvement Project Teams (2024–2025). Biology, Nursing, History, Health Sciences, Mathematics, and Social Work presented their initial project designs. These teams engaged with the Six-Step Learning Improvement Process (Fulcher & Prendergast, 2021)—Collective Will to Improve, Vision, Where Are We Now, Interventions, Implementation, and Re-Assessment—laying the foundation for meaningful program-level change.

A Working Conference

The ADWC agenda reflected its name: participants worked in small groups across three days, moving from orientations and jigsaw discussions to hands-on project development and peer feedback. The final day concluded with presentations and reflections, highlighting both accomplishments and next steps.

Looking Ahead

Recruitment for the next round of Learning Improvement Projects will reopen in Fall 2025, and we encourage programs to consider how dedicated time, space, and expert coaching can transform assessment results into world-class improvement projects. As we continue this initiative, TSU is cultivating a stronger culture of evidence-based improvement, ensuring that student learning is not only measured but also meaningfully enhanced.

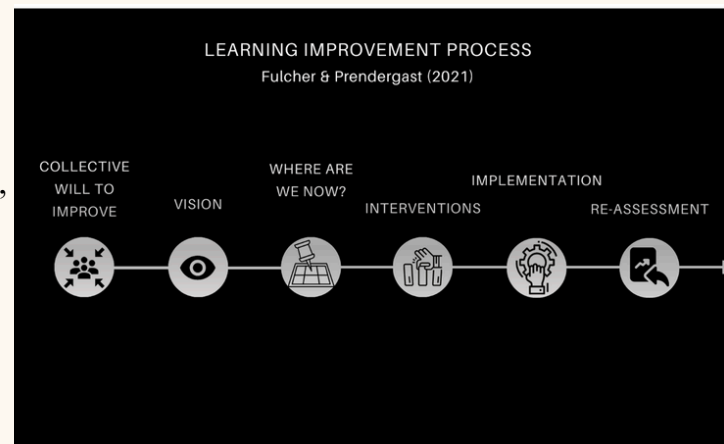
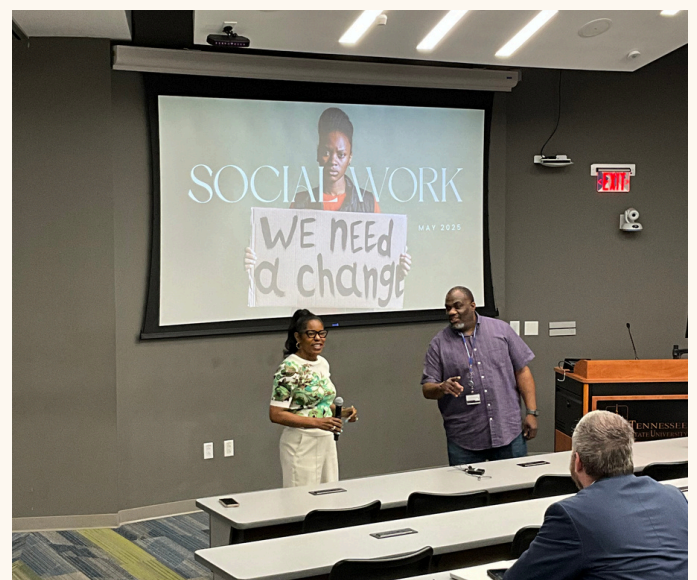


Figure 1. The Six Steps to Learning Improvement framework guiding TSU's Learning Improvement Projects, adapted from Fulcher & Prendergast (2021)



Café Conversations Brewed with Insight: Dr. Stephen Hundley Headlined TSU’s 2025 Virtual Assessment Café

On Friday, April 11, 2025, Tennessee State University stirred up meaningful dialogue with its virtual Assessment Café, featuring esteemed guest speaker Dr. Stephen Hundley—a national leader in academic assessment and institutional improvement.

Hosted by the Department of Assessment and Accreditation within the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research, Planning, and Assessment (OIERPA), the event brought together faculty, staff, and academic leaders for a timely conversation on educational excellence.



Dr. Hundley, the Founding Executive Director of the Center for Leading Improvements in Higher Education at Indiana University Indianapolis, delivered a powerful session titled “Assessment and Improvement: Enduring Principles, Promising Opportunities.” His presentation underscored key elements of effective assessment—planning with purpose, using evidence to inform change, measuring impact, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. With decades of leadership experience—including his role as Chair of the Assessment Institute in Indianapolis and Executive Editor of *Assessment Update*—Dr. Hundley offered participants both strategic guidance and hands-on reflection. His insights resonated deeply with TSU’s commitment to academic excellence and student success.

The virtual café wasn’t just another webinar—it was an invitation to take stock, reframe challenges, and imagine new possibilities in how the university supports learning across programs and departments. TSU’s 2025 Assessment Café served as a vibrant space for professional growth, institutional reflection, and shared vision. A cup of inspiration was on the menu.

Assessment Resources

Assessment Resources: This section will provide links to helpful websites, articles, and books on assessment.

The Office of Assessment and Accreditation publishes

- [TSU’s Nuventive Improve User Guide](#)
- [Annual Cycle for Continuous Improvement: Outcomes Assessment Guidelines](#)

Nuventive Improve Instructional Videos

- [Navigating the Nuventive Improve Interface](#)
- [How to Create and Manage Intended Outcomes](#)
- [How to Use the Mapping Feature to Align Outcomes](#)
- [How to Enter Assignments and work with Assignments](#)
- [How to Manage Documents in the Document Repository](#)
- [How to Use the Reports and Dashboard Features](#)

Center for Assessment & Research Studies (CARS) at James Madison University

- <https://www.jmu.edu/assessment/pdia/index.shtml>

Assessment Newsletter

Upcoming Assessment Activities

- Leading Academic Degree Program Assessment in Higher Education - JUM Virtual:
 - January 5, 6, 7, 8 from 10 AM -4 PM, and Jan 9 from 10 AM -1 PM EST
- Assessment 101 - JMU Virtual:
 - February 6, 13, 20, 27, and March 6, 2026 (five Fridays), June 1-5, 2026 (Monday-Friday)
- Improving Student Learning at Scale - JMU Virtual:
 - February 6, 13, 20, 27, and March 6, 2026 (five Fridays)
- Assessment Development Workshop Conference - JMI- May 2026
- The Assessment Toolbox (Southern University Virtual) - TBD
- Developing and Using Rubrics for Effective Assessments (Southern University Virtual) - TBD

Executive Director Corner

The Process: Submission The Fifth-Year Interim Report

NOTIFICATION

SUBMISSION

Track A Institutions Report Due: September 8

Track B (TSU) Institutions Report Due: March 1

New Report Due Dates!

SACS/COC ACCREDITED INSTITUTION COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

THE FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REPORT

Name of institution:
Address of the institution:
Name, title, contact numbers of persons preparing the report:

Has the Five-Year Report consisted of the following:

- Report prepared by a faculty member, administrator, or other staff member of the institution.
- Report prepared by a faculty member, administrator, or other staff member of the institution, with input from a representative group of faculty, administrators, and other staff members.
- Report prepared by a faculty member, administrator, or other staff member of the institution, with input from a representative group of faculty, administrators, and other staff members, and a representative group of students.
- Report prepared by a faculty member, administrator, or other staff member of the institution, with input from a representative group of faculty, administrators, and other staff members, and a representative group of students, and a representative group of community members.



The Process: Review (Virtual)

NOTIFICATION

SUBMISSION

Review

Track A Institutions Reviewed November

Track B (TSU) Institutions Reviewed April

New Review Dates!

Reports reviewed the week of the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee Reviews

TIMELINE FOR TSU'S SACSCOC FIFTH-YEAR INTERIM REPORT

