MIRO Symposium: IR Support for Accreditation

Wendy Pearson
Senior Advisor to the Provost/ Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO)
My ALO Journey

- Joined administration in 2001 (campus in 1997)
  - Multiple accreditation reviews
  - Strategic planning
  - Program review and professional accreditation
  - Assessment
    - Academic program development
    - Substantive change (distance programs; off-site locations)
    - Budget planning and prioritization
- Regular engagement with IR data/personnel
- Appointed ALO in 2014
Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation

- National Conversations
  - All institutions should not be subject to the same review process.
  - Risk-sensitive approach to reaffirmation

- WASC Working Group

- Institutions must demonstrate:
  - Healthy fiscal conditions
  - Strong student achievement indicators
  - Sustained quality performance

- Institutions invited to apply for the TPR
Our Approach to the Review

• Thematic Pathway for Reaffirmation
  • Institution-selected themes
  • Themes determined our data needs

• Closer collaboration with Institutional Research
  • IR Director engaged from day one (11/2017).

• Fully developed web apps
  • Better disaggregation
  • More filters
  • Faculty/staff familiarity with the apps

• Multiple years of survey results (with high return rates)
  • Disaggregation, additional filters available

• Capacity building for data-driven decision-making
Assessment of Student Success Initiatives

- Hawai‘i Undergraduate Initiative (HUI)
- Mānoa Access Initiative (MAI)
- Disaggregated Data
  - Demographics; GPA; Persistence; Time-to-Degree; etc.
- Filtered Survey Results
  - NSSE Engagement Indicators
  - NSSE High-Impact Practices
- Findings & Recommendations
Closing Thoughts (and Lessons Learned)

• Begin with the end in mind
  • Identify needs early – be specific
  • Secure your partners – be specific
  • Assume nothing

• Invest in long-term relationships
  • Collaborate on projects before the accreditation review
  • Check in often
  • Understand (and plan for) their work cycles

• Invest (encourage investment) in capacity-building

• Shore up support

• Deadlines? Sure, but don’t sacrifice quality
Mahalo!