

Indianapolis Assessment Institute Report - Kim Hancock

The majority of the sessions I attended were either on the use of e-portfolios or on assessment of student learning in the classroom.

I learned an enormous amount about assessment terminology. For two years I have served on the College of Pharmacy Assessment Committee and felt a little in the dark listening to my colleagues talk, I now have a greater understanding of what the committee is discussing and have become a more active member in the discussions. Keeping assessment simple, measure what you are already doing and getting the entire faculty involved in assessment were common messages at the sessions I attended.

E-portfolios are an extremely flexible assessment tool. They can be used to assess an entire institution, an entire program or student learning in an individual class. Since we currently have no formal portfolio (paper or electronic) in pharmacy I was interested in seeing how other programs developed and implemented a e-portfolio. It appears e-portfolios are easier to implement and assess than the paper version, many software companies exist that help track submissions and grading of content. There were some interesting discussions regarding whether Faculty should maintain an e-portfolio? At one presentation faculty portfolios were used as a way to model for the students what a good e-portfolio should look like. A student's portfolio should grow with them and show their development as they move through the curriculum, ultimately containing the artifacts they need to pursue a career in their given branch of pharmacy. When used appropriately a well developed e-portfolio is a powerful measure of student learning.

Thomas Angelo gave a wonderful presentation on easy methods of assessing student learning. It was interactive and provided many good ideas for what I can use in my own classroom.

As a result of the conference I am working to write measurable outcomes for my class and developing ways in which I can assess the outcomes. One of the greatest challenges will be to find an easy way to collect the assessment of student learning data in one place from many different sources in a format that is analyzable.