

### ***Piram Prakasam:***

In the IUPUI 2008 Assessment Institute in Indianapolis, I attended a few course-level assessment level workshops and lectures. I also attended the Poster Session and learned about effective strategies in improving course-level assessments as well as ideas on applying for external funding. The following workshops/lectures related to grant proposals and course-level assessments strategies were very useful.

#### **1) Going for Gold Pre-conference:**

A hands-on workshop conducted by a former NSF (chemistry) program director to assist faculty interested in applying for an external funding agency like NSF. I specifically attended to get feedback on a project idea that I have been working on recently. With help of another participant, I worked on mapping the key ideas of the project idea. At the end, workshop participants analyzed 6 project ideas and assessed the effectiveness of the proposals. It was an excellent networking opportunity with like-minded faculty.

#### **2) Doing Assessment as if Learning Matters Most: Simple, Practical Classroom-and Course-Level Approaches:**

Tom A. Angelo gave an interesting and entertaining seven specific (practical) guidelines for course-level assessment. The seven steps are simple and practical easy to implement steps that can be very effective. I have [linked to the file here](#) for anyone interested.

#### **3) Giving Feedback as if Learning Matters Most: How Less Can Often Be More:**

Tom Angelo's second session focused on how to get quick, practical and time-saving strategies and guidelines for improving effectiveness of feedback based on research findings. This session assisted participants to understand the 3 critical "MOM" elements (Motivation, Opportunities and Means) learners should have in using feedback effectively. Dr. Angelo identified key five steps in the feedback process. He further added that the key step in any feedback should be to ensure that the learner commits to using the feedback to improve and agrees to a plan.