

THE FOCUS



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OUTSTANDING CAAP SCORES!!

DIANN WILLIAMS RN, MSN, VICE PRESIDENT ASSESSMENT & IE/NAH

The Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) tests are a standardized examinations required by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education for all students receiving the Associates of Arts (AA) degree. The requirement for the CAAP was instituted in 1997. The CAAP has been largely voluntary. However the test results are a valuable measure of student learning for the college. It is due to this value that the test is now mandatory for all AA degree seeking students who have completed 45 credit hours. The CAAP tests are administered during the Fall and Spring semesters (November and April).

CAAP exam scores are 'norm referenced,' meaning that SEARK College student scores are compared to the scores of students who are

similarly classified on both the national and state level. We are pleased to report that of the thirty two (32) SEARK Students who took the 2002 Fall CAAP exam—twenty (23) -(72%) scored at or above the national level in one of more areas of the exam. The complete breakdown of student performance scores can be found on the SEARK College Assessment web page. The following students

level in one or more categories of the exam and received certificates of recognition from ACT: **Leslie Adams, Kerri Allen, Bryan Bilgischer, Melodie Bradley Latisha Chastain, Trudy Crowe, Clifton Davis, Treasure Golden, Mark Greenlee, James Hall, Leslie Holland, Gwen Hunter, Otis Ingram, Brandye Jacks, Gloria Miller, Sharon Mulder, Tiphynne Shurmon, Cassandra Thornton, and Sonya Watson.**

Special congratulations go to **Tiphynne Shurmon** who scored in the top 5% in three categories of the **CAAP**.

See page two (2) for a list of students and the CAAP tests in which they excelled!

Congratulations to the students and the instructors.



Office of Assessment Online -

There is a new web link on the SEARK COLLEGE web page. You may now access information on assessment by going to the homepage—Departments & Assessment or [http:// www.seark.edu/assess/index.html](http://www.seark.edu/assess/index.html). The web page is in its infancy and is becoming a valuable source for accessing information on assessment of student academic achievement.

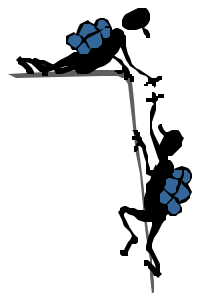
REPORTING OF ASSESSMENT ONLINE



Thanks to Rick Jenkins, Institutional Research Officer, faculty are now able to report CAT results directly to the Office of Assessment via a new web link. In the near future results of CAT data will also be reported via the web page! Look for this.

HELPING HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

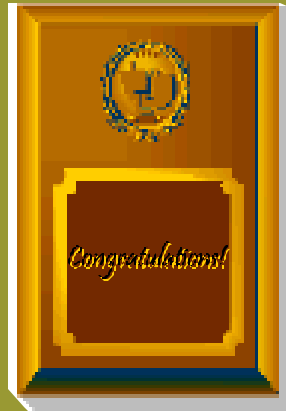
Results of a study conducted by the Mackinac (MI) Center for Public Policy found that more than one-third of high school graduates lack the basic skills to succeed in college. SEARK College, like many Community Colleges, spends a significant portion of the College budget teaching these basic skills. When the College tutoring program was jeopardized by changes with Perkins funding, President Shirley targeted the tutoring program as a priority to continue to be supported. This priority funding was in response to data that 92% of SEARK College entering students require some level of remediation. The tutorial program is one link to success at SEARK College.



Student Learning All-Stars Technical Studies

The **Student Learning All-Star Award** is a departmental distinction that will be highlighted in all future issues of *THE FOCUS*. This distinction is given in order to showcase the student academic achievement benchmarks that have been met and documented by a program and/or department.

The **Student Learning All-Star Award** for this issue of THE FOCUS is **Technical Studies**. The department dean for Technical Studies is **Dr. Robert Edleston**. Dr. Edleston and the technical studies faculty are recognized for the completeness of assessment outcomes, collection and analysis of results and taking decisive actions to improve student performance based on assessment data. Complete data on student performance on NOCTI exams is available. Data shows that SEARK college students perform at or above national standards in several of the program areas.



Mike Spiller, Instructor for HVAC, can be proud of the performance of his HVAC students who attained a **100% pass rate** on EPA exam! The EPA exam is a federal requirement for all certified HVAC technicians. The EPA certification is required in order for HVAC technicians to purchase, recover, and reclaim refrigerants. Mike keeps his finger on the pulse of student learning with his **CATS**. In pre-test assessment, Mike's most recent percentage was 40% competence. The 40% score let Mike know that he had his work cut out for him. So he modified and adapted the course content. The same class post test scores **EXCEEDED 80%! NOW THAT'S LEARNING!!!!!!!!!!!!**

SEARK COLLEGE STUDENTS SCORED ABOVE NATIONAL LEVEL ON CAAP

Writing	Math	Reading	Critical Thinking	Science Reasoning
Kerri Allen	Kerri Allen	Kerri Allen	Leslie Adams	Kerri Allen
Bryan Bilgischer	Bryan Bilgischer	Bryan Bilgischer	Gwen Hunter	Melodie Bradley
Melodie Bradley	Melodie Badley	Melodie Bradley	Otis Ingram	Latisha Chastain
Latisha Chastain	Latisha Chastain	Latisha Chastain	Brandye Jacks	Trudy Crow
Trudy Crow	Trudy Crow	Trudy Crow	Angela Jackson	Treasure Golden
Treasure Golden	Clifton Davis	Mark Greenlee	Patrice Moody	James Hall
Mark Greenlee	Treasure Golden	James Hall	Donna Porter	Leslie Holland
James Hall	Mark Greenlee	Leslie Holland	Sonya Watson	Sharon Mulder
Leslie Holland	Gloria Miller	Tiphynee Shurmon		Leeante Sanders
Sharon Mulder	Sharon Mulder	Cassandra Thornton		Tiphynee Shurmon
Tiphynee Shurmon	Tiphynee Shurmon			Cassandra Thornton
Cassandra Thornton				

Nursing Students Score High on CAAP

Leslie Adams AAS nursing student scored higher than 99% of all students in the nation who took the CAAP critical thinking exam. 8 of the 14 nursing students scored above the national percentile.



Congratulations!!!

Mike Spiller & AIRC Students for 100% Pass Rate on the EPA Exam and to the 16 students that received Universal Certification.

COURSE ASSESSMENT 101

Brenda Edleston, Instructor General Studies brought to life the concept of incorporating CATS during a Friday morning in-service meeting. In a classroom setting, instructors from disciplines across the campus once again became students. The students were active participants in Mrs. Edleston's informative meeting. The goal of the meeting was to demonstrate an integrated approach to using classroom assessment techniques. The students left the classroom with first hand knowledge of assessment following a demonstration of how easily these techniques flow with the instructional process. They also received a good refresher on Bloom's Taxonomy of Higher Order Thinking and it's application to instruction.



ALL STUDENTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO FAIL
—QUANTIFY THE SUCCESS OF YOUR TEACHING
THROUGH ASSESSMENT.

THE LANGUAGE OF ASSESSMENT

One of the most important characteristics of a Culture is the language. Language conveys common understanding from frequent use of terms with shared meaning and relevance. The assessment culture is no different. The American Association of College and University, website <http://www.aacu.org/index.cfm> references a glossary of terms and concepts relevant to assessment of student achievement in higher education. The article "BEYOND CONFUSION: AN ASSESSMENT GLOSSARY" lists and describes these terms and concepts. Andrea Leskes, Vice President for Education and Quality Initiatives with the American Association of Colleges and Universities is the author of the article.

CAAP - FYI

It's time to begin preparing for ASSESSMENT Month. The College Academic Achievement Proficiency (CAAP) test are scheduled for administration during April.

How many CAAP tests are there and are students required to take them all?

- A. There are six (6) CAAP exams: Writing skills, Reading, Mathematics, Critical Thinking, Science Reasoning and Writing Essay. As a SEARK College student, you will be required to take 5 of the 6 exams. Writing Essay is not required.

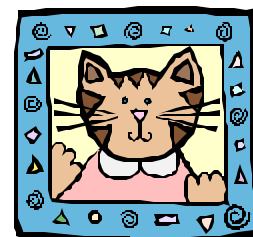
Why are CAAP exams important to me as a student?

- A. By taking the CAAP exams, students participate in the College's outcome assessment program. Student participation is critical to the understanding of the quality of the education here at SEARK College. Group CAAP score are studied by the faculty to confirm program strengths and areas of needed improvement. This is why it is critical that students take the exam seriously.

“In-class assessment allows us to keep our finger on the pulse of all of our learners. By frequently checking for those who are lagging behind, we can compensate, intervene, tutor, advise adjust, etc. Let’s minimize our losses. Let’s not reach the end of our journey bragging that we failed to bring everyone through the fracas alive.”

Dr. Rob Edleston

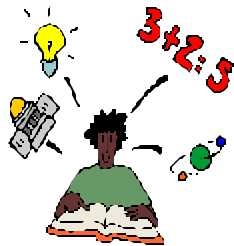
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THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH
RICK JENKINS, M.P.A., INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH OFFICER

1. The Student Satisfaction Survey is planned to be conducted March 2003. For the first time, this survey will be conducting online via the college's website.
2. The Course Assessment web pages will be altered in the future to add review and sorting capabilities.



CAAP EXAM DATES
SPRING 2003

TUESDAY APRIL 7—8:30AM
(CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9—2:30 PM
(DOOR PRIZE DRAWING)

THURSDAY APRIL 10—5:30 PM
(PIZZA & SODAS)