



PIR SPOTLIGHT: STRENGTHENING ASSESSMENT AT NKU: SUPPORTING MEANINGFUL, DATA-INFORMED IMPROVEMENT



Across Northern Kentucky University, assessment is increasingly becoming a valuable tool for reflection, decision-making, and continuous improvement. By focusing on meaningful outcomes and using data intentionally, units are finding new ways to enhance their work and better support institutional goals.

Through collaboration and structured support, units can develop clear, measurable outcomes, select effective assessment methods, and make sense of their results. Regular mid-cycle and end-of-cycle reviews, guided by a standardized rubric, provide opportunities for reflection and feedback which help to make assessment an ongoing, manageable process rather than a one-time task.

Access to data also plays an important role. PIR continues to offer a growing range of dashboards, reports, and data resources that faculty and staff can use to identify trends and make informed decisions. Opportunities like the annual Assessment Summit further support this work by bringing colleagues together to share practices, explore ideas, and strengthen assessment efforts across campus.

What Our Campus Partners Are Saying

“Planning and Institutional Research has consistently provided thoughtful, reliable support for our annual assessment efforts. Their guidance has helped streamline our processes, clarify expectations, and ensure our reporting is both meaningful and aligned with institutional goals. I especially appreciate their annual review and feedback, which gives us time to reflect and incorporate suggestions before the next cycle. As a result, assessment has become a more intentional and valuable part of our work—not just a requirement, but a tool we actively use to evaluate outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and make more informed decisions within our division.”

— Annie Spalding, Assistant to the Vice President
of Legal Affairs & General Counsel



Feedback from the 2025 Assessment Summit



- “The breakout sessions were fantastic. I attended the Assessment 101 and Assessment Matters presentations, and they were perfect for someone new to assessment.”
- “I enjoyed the session on designing accessible assignments—it helped me rethink my approach to course design.”
- “Lots of good information. I now know what I don’t know—so in some ways I feel less confident than when I started, but I’m eager to get to work and energized by the presenters.”
- “A great reminder to begin with the end in mind and recognize how smaller efforts can have a cumulative impact.”

If you’d like to improve assessment in your area then mark your calendars for **September 25, 2026**, and join us for the **Assessment Summit 2026**.



Reinforcing Campus Partnerships to Meet Institutional Goals

This year PIR has made strides to strengthen our partnerships across campus to meet institutional goals. A hearty thank you and kudos to the offices of Graduate Admissions, Law Admissions, Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid, University Registrar, and Student Account Services for partnering with us in expansive data sharing efforts:

- To facilitate ETL processes of key data points from SLATE to SAP for state and federal reporting
- To feed data flows that are building a comprehensive undergraduate persistence and progression prediction model
- To respond to the new IPEDS reporting component: Admissions and Consumer Transparency Supplement (ACTS) which has proven to be one of the most significant expansions to IPEDS in recent years

These partnerships are critical to meeting our objective to provide accurate and timely data insights across our tools and reporting. With these partnerships in place, NKU can better address the rapidly changing landscape of higher education.



PIR External Partnerships: KYSTATS and Complete College America

PIR has established strategic partnerships with KYSTATS and Complete College America to enhance data-informed decision-making and support NKU's strategic priorities.

Through KYSTATS and the Coleridge Initiative, PIR is attempting to form data agreements and gain access to post-graduation wage data about employed graduates in Kentucky and Ohio. These data, which are collected six months after graduation, enable the development of customized workforce metrics aligned with *Forward Together* goals related to access and career success.



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Uniting our data. Informing our Commonwealth.

In collaboration with Complete College America, PIR supports campus units through workshops and resources on a metrics tree methodology, helping programs define key performance indicators and use real-time data for assessment and continuous improvement.





ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Save the Date: Assessment Summit 2026

Mark your calendars for **September 25, 2026**, and join us for the **Assessment Summit 2026** - a dynamic opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about assessment and continuous improvement.

Explore innovative assessment practices, share insights, and collaborate with colleagues to strengthen student learning and program effectiveness. Whether you're refining existing processes or discovering new approaches, the Summit will offer valuable ideas and inspiration to support your work.

Lunch will be provided.

Stay tuned for more details. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thank You For Your Participation!

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in our **Great Colleges to Work For**[®] survey. With a strong 39% response rate, your feedback provides valuable insight that will help inform our strategic decisions and support the goal of our [Forward Together](#) strategic plan to enhance employee morale, wellbeing, and professional growth. Survey results will be received later this summer and will guide meaningful improvements as we continue building a culture where our colleagues feel valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

