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# BEYOND *measure*

## A Collaborative Community



On January 13, 2020, a new program called [The Hive](#) was launched at CSB/SJU. The Hive is a new digital platform which attempts to make our community even more collaborative, by creating a one-stop place for students to schedule appointments with instructors, staff, and advisers.

The Hive also allows students to utilize a “raise your hand” function to signal when they need a referral to a specific staff or faculty member, to ensure they get to the right place. In addition, The Hive includes faculty to use a “high five” feature, which allows students to see when they are doing an exemplary job in their classes.

Mary Beth Thompson, Administrator of Student Success, gives us some insight into how this program fits into our institutions’ mission and values. “The Hive reflects that Benedictine thought process of community, and everyone working in the community towards a common goal.”

The program also offers sustainable connected records, which are not only more environmentally friendly, but make it easier than ever before for cross-department communication to ensure students are getting the best possible support.

“It’s there to help illustrate and support, so you have the whole picture of a student,” said Thompson.

Though the program was just launched, Thompson is already looking forward, and says she is “hopeful about the future of the program for students, and the lines of communication it can open up.”

## How Taskstream Benefits CSBSJU



Recently, the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment launched their newest platform to help make assessment an even easier and more flawless process than ever before. After several months of creating how-to documents (which you can view on our [webpage](#)), uploading assessment plans and adding program data, Taskstream was launched on January 6, 2020, for the CSB/SJU community to use.

Taskstream by Watermark is the new platform used at CSB/SJU for assessment of student learning. With Taskstream, faculty will be able to more easily track outcomes, evaluate program quality, and document institutional effectiveness. Faculty can now easily report on goals, findings, actions and measures, track outcomes on course, program and institutional levels, share accreditation evidence, and link assessment efforts with resources.

“Our goal is to have everything very well-prepared so that the transition over to more public use is as easy as possible,” said Abby Kaluza, a sophomore student worker for the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. “As new and different as this software is, it will tremendously help ease the assessment process.”

The launch of Taskstream marks the beginning of a new era of assessment and program review – one that will provide greater support all faculty and staff going through the assessment process.

## New Curriculum, New Software



With the new curriculum coming this fall, CSBSJU has just implemented a new tool to help both students and faculty. That tool is [Portfolium](#), which has major benefits for both students and faculty.

On the faculty side of things, faculty can use this tool to connect their assignments to Canvas through assessment.

“It’s a lot more robust than anything we’ve ever had before,” said Cathy Robak, one of the implementers of this new software. “You can keep everything in there for the four years you’re here and decide what you want to showcase. It’s a nice repository.”

For students, Portfolium will be a platform to keep assignments and work from all their classes, on-campus jobs, and extracurricular activities in a single place. This will provide extra precaution and safety for students in case of a computer breakdown or technology issues.

In addition, Portfolium allows students to upload their assignments from course work and showcase them for future employers.

Students can choose to make these assignments public or private, depending on how well they feel it represents their potential to future employers. This will be a great tool to truly show off students’ best work that they have done here over their four years.

This software will be available for students to use this coming fall, in August 2020.

## Is Your Major Healthy?



*An Interview Donald Fischer*

When it comes to program review, your head may be full of questions.

“How well are we fulfilling the mission of the department and of these institutions? Are we meeting the needs of all students? Are we helping to put every student in a position to be successful?”

These are the questions that Don Fischer asks himself every time the Exercise Science and Sports Studies department goes through program review. “Approach program review as an opportunity for departmental and curricular enhancement, not as a hoop to jump through,” Fischer says.

*My suggestion would be to treat departmental health like human health. Use the tools at your disposal to identify the nature of the program. Then, in consultation with colleagues, develop a treatment plan.*

Program review is also a time that causes departments to have to work with a large amount of data. It can become a bit overwhelming at points, but Don Fischer has an insightful suggestion from the three program reviews he has completed.

"It begins with departmental discussions and identifying the characteristics that will define a healthy major," Fischer says. "Furthermore, departments could define the health of the major based on the degree to which all students achieve these characteristics."

Fischer also thinks about using major data and health in terms of a literal health metaphor.

"My suggestion would be to treat departmental health like human health. Use the tools at your disposal to identify the nature of the program. Then, in consultation with colleagues, develop a treatment plan. This plan should not only address the symptoms of the problem, but also the underlying factors that may have contributed to the problem."

Fischer credits a significant amount of what he knows about program review to the current Director of Assessment, Carie Braun. Even though Braun will be stepping down from the position after this semester, Fischer says he will never forget the lasting impact and positivity Braun has brought into the assessment process.



## Meet Jon Enriquez



*Director of Institutional Research and Assessment*

Jon Enriquez, the new director of Institutional Research, is optimistic about CSBSJU's ability to meet the challenges that face higher education today.

"CSB and SJU are in a good position to face those challenges," Enriquez said.

After 25 years of experience in higher education in administration and institutional research, Jon Enriquez has come to CSBSJU as the new Director of Research and Assessment. Enriquez officially started on November 14, 2019.

Enriquez previously worked at the Maryland Higher Education Agency. The Maryland Higher Education Agency is a board in charge of implementing statewide policies for Maryland public and private higher education institutions.

"The virtues of working with others and sacrificing your own interests in the service of a larger cause" is something Enriquez admires, which is why his favorite film is *Casablanca*.

While Enriquez is just settling into his position, he is already excited to continue to immerse himself in the CSBSJU community by conducting research and analyses in order to improve our institutions.

"The most rewarding thing here has to be the people I've met so far," said Enriquez. "It only makes me more interested to meet the rest of the people."

In his free time, Enriquez enjoys singing. He has sung at both the National Cathedral in Washington, as well as St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome, Italy.

Enriquez joins the current director and assistant director of assessment, Carie Braun and Holly Christie, after the recent merge between the Office of Institutional Research and the Assessment Office.

## The Assessment of Assessment

Carie Braun, Director of Assessment

The work of assessment often feels invisible. For this reason, I feel compelled to share some of the accomplishments of the office over the past 2 ½ years.

- We successfully supported the 2018 comprehensive HLC site visit with no monitoring report. We also are planning for a successful mid-cycle review in 2022.
- We completely revamped program review. The new model organizes programs into cohorts and includes a comprehensive guidebook and growing set of assessment tools to support the program review process. Significant additions to the process included a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and a required "administrative preview" meeting where programs pitch their intended significant program changes to promote administrative support early in the process.
- We introduced and are filling out Taskstream as our assessment repository. To date, all programs have a mission and learning goals/outcomes in Taskstream. By the end of this academic year, all programs will have their assessment plans housed in Taskstream.
- We introduced and are managing Portfolium as tool for assessment in the Integrations Curriculum. All current rubrics are in Portfolium and we are ready for its launch in fall 2020.
- We have supported all programs in one way, shape, or form, such as creation of rubrics, development of curricular maps, administration of surveys, etc., all with a goal of improving student learning.
- We merged our office with the office of institutional research and now these two have become the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. This structural change will enhance our ability to use institutional data for programmatic decisions. The website is in development.
- Lastly, we will support a successful transition as we hire a new Director of Assessment. I have really enjoyed the challenges and rewards but only aspired to fill the role for 3 years. Into the future, I will be a resource and support this brave soul in keeping assessment alive and well at CSB/SJU.

