



NEWS RELEASE

American Public University System Officials Asked for Perspective on Academic Assessment, Quality

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Invitations Reflect University System's Growing Reputation

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va., Mar 26, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Dr. Frank McCluskey, Provost and Executive Vice President of American Public University System, and Dr. Phil Ice, Director of Course Design and Research, have been invited by Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide counsel on issues surrounding academic assessments and quality in connection with two upcoming conferences.

[ETS](#), a nonprofit organization which advances quality and equity in education by creating assessments based on rigorous research, has invited Dr. McCluskey to participate in its Central Regional College and University Advisory Council, which will meet in Chicago next month during the North Central Administration of the Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting. The ETS panel includes a select group of higher education leaders brought together to share ideas and best practices in addressing assessment-related challenges. According to ETS, a particular focus of the April meeting will be on the assessment of student learning outcomes in general education and in the major.

APUS uses the ETS MAPP or Measures of Academic Proficiency and Progress and the MFT or Major Field Test which indicate where graduates stand in relation to national norms. The [APUS learning outcomes assessment Web site](#) has been cited as a reference by such schools as Minnesota State, North Carolina State University and Loyola University.

Dr. McCluskey, along with Dr. Phil Ice, has also been invited to participate in an April meeting on quality in online education by the [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#), which has made the productive use of technology a cornerstone of its support of both K-12 and post-secondary education.

"On behalf of APUS, I'm honored our university is being recognized for our dedication both to quality instructional practices and to our use of metrics to measure and improve learning outcomes," said McCluskey.

APUS's work was recognized in 2009 by the Sloan C Foundation with the Ralph E. Gomory Award for

Quality Online Education, which honors the institution that best demonstrates its commitment to assessing and improving the quality of its online education programs. APUS is the first-ever for-profit online university to receive the prestigious award. The University also was a finalist last year for the I-Strategy Award for the use of a data warehouse in higher education.

About American Public University System

American Public University System offers over 100 online certificate and degree programs and educates more than 60,000 adult learners worldwide. APU's relevant curriculum, affordability and flexibility help working adults pursue degrees in subjects ranging from homeland security to management and liberal arts. A university book grant provides course reading materials at no cost to eligible undergraduate students.

SOURCE: American Public University System

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