

# **Lessons from the Mellon Assessment Project at Hamilton College**

Daniel F. Chambliss  
Hamilton College

January, 2007

## **Introduction**

Thanks

Assessment for Organizational Improvement

Management Advice

MAP Overview (attachment)

## **I. Findings**

1) Writing Improves

2) Relationships are Primary

3) Discipline-Specific Knowledge is Irrelevant

4) Numbers Matter, But How?

### **Findings Used:**

a) Sophomore Seminars

### **Findings Used (cont.)**

b) Advising

c) Oral Communications

## **II. Method and Conceptual Lessons**

1) Sample on All Students – Individual as Unit of Analysis

2) Science Isn't the Goal – Policy Is

a) Ceteris  $\neq$  Paribus

## **II. Method and Conceptual Lessons (cont.)**

b) The World Won't Wait

c) Obvious Solution  $\neq$  Correct Solution

## **III. The Proper Role of Assessment in Liberal Arts?**

1) Government/Accreditors Want "Workforce Development" – Job Skills

2) But Happiness is a Legitimate Outcome

3) "Do Assessment" is Good Management Advice

### **III. The Proper Role of Assessment in Liberal Arts? (cont.)**

4) But No Zero-Order Correlation with Success

5) Goals are Problematic