INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT LEADERS CONFERENCE

October 22-23, 2026 | Orlando, Florida

Conference Overview

Effective institutional assessment is more than an accreditation requirement. It is the foundation for informed decision-making, continuous improvement, and faithful stewardship of an institution's mission. A well-designed assessment system helps leaders evaluate effectiveness, strengthen academic programs and support services, and use evidence to guide planning and resource allocation.

The Institutional Assessment Conference equips institutional leaders with practical tools for designing, implementing, and sustaining an effective assessment system. Through presentations from experienced practitioners, interactive discussion, and real-world examples, participants will explore every stage of the assessment process—from developing meaningful assessment plans to using evidence for institutional improvement. Whether you are building a new system or strengthening an existing one, you'll leave with practical ideas to advance assessment at your institution.

This 1½-day conference begins at 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 22, and concludes with lunch on Friday, October 23.

The Assessment Journey

Build the Foundation → Implement with Confidence → Use Evidence to Improve → Evaluate and Refine

Who Should Attend?

Designed for institutional effectiveness leaders, assessment directors, accreditation liaisons, chief academic officers, provosts, academic deans, institutional researchers, and others responsible for institutional assessment, planning, accreditation, or continuous improvement. Whether you are new to institutional assessment or seeking to strengthen an established process, this conference provides practical guidance specifically for biblical and Christian higher education.

What You'll Gain

- Practical strategies for strengthening institutional assessment
- Ideas from experienced assessment leaders across biblical higher education
- Meaningful conversations with peers facing similar challenges
- Practical tools to improve assessment and institutional effectiveness

Conference Experience

This conference combines practical presentations, interactive Q&A, and peer discussion to help institutional leaders strengthen assessment systems that support mission achievement and continuous improvement. Participants will explore proven practices, examine real institutional examples, and leave with practical ideas they can apply within their own context.

Pricing

On-Site Registration

ABHE Members: $500
Early Bird Member Rate: $450

Non-Members: $600
Early Bird Non-Member Rate: $550

Early Bird Deadline: October 1, 2026

On-site registration includes full engagement in the conference program, Q&A participation, networking and fellowship with attendees and presenters, access to video recordings after the conference, lodging at the nearby Hilton Garden Inn for the nights of October 21-22, all conference meals and refreshments, and access to conference resources.

Virtual Registration

ABHE Members: $200
Non-Members $300

Virtual registration includes full engagement in the conference program, Q&A participation, access to video recordings after the conference, and access to conference resources.

Location

Conferences are held at: The ABHE Weber Center, 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 130, Orlando, FL 32822
Virtual participants will join via Zoom.

Cancellation Policy

In the event of a personal registration cancellation, fees paid in advance are refundable, less a $50 cancellation fee, provided written notice is received by ABHE no later than three weeks prior to the event. No refunds will be granted after that date. No refunds are provided for no-shows.

DAY 1 THURSDAY | OCTOBER 22, 2026

9:00 – 9:15 **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Lisa Beatty, Executive Director | ABHE Commission on Accreditation

9:15 – 10:00 **SESSION 1: GETTING THE BIG PICTURE OF ASSESSMENT**

Sheri Popp, Associate Director | ABHE Commission on Accreditation (FL)

Developing an effective assessment plan requires a clear understanding of your mission and assessment's overarching purposes. Plans that demonstrate mission achievement fuel a culture of assessment and drive continuous improvement. What big-picture issues bring meaning and value to assessment work?

Goal: Design a Comprehensive Institutional Assessment Plan (Standard 2: EE 1).

Participants Will:

- Define Institutional Effectiveness and differentiate its components
- Defend the purpose and value of assessment
- Identify ways to build a culture of assessment

10:00 – 10:30 **Q&A DISCUSSION**

10:30 – 10:45 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 – 11:30 **SESSION 2: CREATING UNIT LEVEL ASSESSMENT PLANS**

Rebecca Lippert, Dir. of Inst. Planning & Effectiveness | Lancaster Bible College (PA)

Effective assessment begins with clearly defined outcomes describing what a program or unit intends to accomplish and how success will be measured. A well-designed plan identifies meaningful outcomes, appropriate measures, and achievement targets. What components make an assessment plan workable, and how do they generate evidence for improvement?

Goal: Design a Program or Operational Unit Assessment Plan (Standard 2: EE 2-3).

Participants Will:

- Identify and describe elements of an assessment plan
- Develop outcomes statements (including learning outcomes and operational outcomes)
- Select multiple appropriate measures and articulate targets or benchmarks

11:30 – 12:00 **Q&A DISCUSSION**

12:00 – 12:15 **A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR** — Gloo

12:15 – 1:00 **LUNCH BREAK**

1:00 – 1:45 **SESSION 3: IMPLEMENTING AN EFFECTIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

Chris Dickerson, Provost | Carolina College of Biblical Studies (NC)

An assessment plan has little value unless implemented consistently across the institution. Sustainable systems depend on clearly defined roles, regular assessment cycles, meaningful data analysis, and effective communication of results. How do you build the structures and accountability that turn plans into institutional practice?

Goal: Plan for implementation of the institutional assessment plan (Standard 2: EE 4, 5, 6).

Participants Will:

- Establish a sustainable assessment cycle with clear roles and responsibilities across the institution
- Analyze data, including disaggregating data in missionally relevant ways
- Communicate institutional outcomes to internal and external stakeholders

1:45 – 2:15 **Q&A DISCUSSION**

2:15 – 2:30 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

DAY 1 CONTINUED

2:30 – 3:15 **SESSION 4: USING ASSESSMENT DATA TO DRIVE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

Jena Dunn, Provost | Stark College & Seminary (TX)

Assessment findings offer insight into institutional performance, but their value is realized when they lead to informed action. Through collaborative review and action planning, institutions can use evidence to strengthen programs and departments, improve outcomes, and support strategic priorities. How can findings translate into action, planning, and budgeting decisions?

Goal: Design a plan for institution-wide use of assessment data (Standard 2: EE 7, 8).

Participants Will:

- Facilitate collaborative review of assessment findings and develop action plans
- Implement data informed changed
- Connect assessment to institutional planning and budgeting

3:15 – 4:00 **Q&A DISCUSSION & WRAP-UP**

5:00 – 6:30 **DINNER**

DAY 2 FRIDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2026

9:00 – 9:15 **INSIGHTS FROM THE WORD** — Jena Dunn

9:15 – 10:00 **SESSION 5: ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS**

Aaron Profitt, Vice President for Academic Affairs | God's Bible School & College (OH)

Academic program review evaluates program quality, effectiveness, and alignment with institutional mission. While annual assessment tracks specific learning outcomes, program review takes a broader, periodic look at performance to identify strengths, guide improvement, and inform planning and resource allocation. What components make a review process effective and strengthen academic programs?

Goal: Design a systematic academic program review process (Standard 7: EE 6).

Participants Will:

- Explain the purpose, value, and essential components of academic program review
- Develop a program review cycle and timeline
- Use program review findings to support planning, resource allocation, and improvement

10:00 – 10:30 **Q&A DISCUSSION**

10:30 – 10:45 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:45 – 11:30 **SESSION 6: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT IN ACTION**

Jena Dunn, Rebecca Lippert, Aaron Profitt, Chris Dickerson

There is no single model for institutional assessment; systems are shaped by mission, culture, size, and resources. Several ABHE institutions will show how they translated assessment principles into sustainable models. What practices can you adapt, and what are your next steps?

Goal: Evaluate examples of institutional assessment systems and create a plan for implementing improvements at your institution.

Participants Will:

- Compare institutional assessment models and identify effective practices in action
- Evaluate alignment with ABHE Accreditation Standards
- Develop an action plan for improvement

11:30 – 12:00 **Q&A DISCUSSION & WRAP-UP**

12:00 – 1:30 **LUNCH**

Questions?

For registration or conference questions, email **conferences@abhe.org** or call us at **(407) 207-0808**

With Appreciation

ABHE gratefully acknowledges Gloo as our sponsor whose support helps make this Leadership Development Conference possible.

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