

ASSESSMENT GRANT UTILIZATION REPORT

At the end of 2004, Dr. Hossein Hakimzadeh and I received a \$2,000 grant to help us begin the establishment of some assessment guidelines for the informatics program. The application for the grant stated that most of the funds would be used to attend an assessment workshop where we could learn how to develop the new plan and learn about any current trends in the assessment community.

Dr. Hakimzadeh and I attended a pre-conference workshop held in conjunction with the Twenty-Second Annual Academic Chairpersons Conference. This workshop was held on February 7, 2005. The title of the session was "Developing Program Level Assessment Plans" and the presenter was Susan Hatfield who is a peer reviewer with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association along with other academic duties.

The workshop was interactive. We were presented with various tools and rubrics and then we were asked to apply them to various scenarios including a subset of our own program plan. She stressed that assessment is an interactive process and that it is never ending (as I have learned). She stressed the importance of collecting data that will allow us to determine how well our performance matches the standards we have set forth for the program.

It is probably most interesting that this session and the session we had on campus recently both stressed the importance of keeping it simple – a few goals with a few outcomes. Anything more than that is too complex to implement. Look for continuous improvement with a constant realignment of goals and outcomes.

We spent \$1,812.84 in airfare, hotel, and registration fees. The remaining monies have not been spent.