Handout 1: Data-Need Scenarios

A. Consider various methods of collecting data to support decision making.

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Observations
- Rubrics
- Access existing data

B. Discuss which method (or combination of methods) would be appropriate for each scenario.

1. The Office of Instructional Services wants to know if a new series of courses in information technology, arts, audiovisual technology, and communication is being well received by enrolled students and any challenges or barriers students might be experiencing.

2. The members of the Wisconsin Technical College System have requested a "deep dive" into how the WTCS's colleges are aligning their work to the vision of WTCS, which is to provide dynamic education and training and to increase economic vitality for students, employers, and communities.

3. Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College wants to know if students using the new Your Choice program are completing courses at slower or faster rates than peers in traditional in-person-only courses.

4. WTCS is in the process of planning events for Manufacturing month and needs to know which schools and employers in the state are interested in hosting events. They also want to know which high schools in the state are interested in having their students attend.

C. Think about a survey your division has conducted. Which alternative data collection method could augment or replace the survey?