



# BULLETIN

Published by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement

## Texas Small Colleges

**Featured Texas Small Colleges Consortium  
Member: Clarendon College**

### Building on Success: Special Resources Available to Member Colleges

#### CCSSE's Web site and Toolkit

Eighteen Texas Small Colleges participated in the 2008 CCSSE administration and recently received their findings. CCSSE's Web site can serve as a vehicle for putting those findings in context and reporting them to the college community and the public at large. Special features for member colleges include a Toolkit (<http://www.ccsse.org/members/communications.cfm>) that contains resources to help colleges understand their survey results, communicate them to various audiences, and use them to target institutional improvement initiatives. We encourage you to take a look at the Toolkit on the Web site and use it in your communication efforts.

#### Communicating Your Results: A Tip from Brazosport College

Release CCSSE results to your college community in a user-friendly monthly newsletter. Check out Brazosport's newsletter, Gator Stats, online at <http://www.brazosport.edu/sites/General/InstitutionalResearch/GatorStats/GatorStats.aspx>

#### Members of the 2009 CCSSE Texas Small Colleges Consortium

- Angelina College
- Brazosport College
- El Centro College
- Frank Phillips College
- Temple College
- Texas State Technical College Marshall
- Texas State Technical College Waco
- Trinity Valley Community College
- Vernon College
- Western Texas College

In the spring of 2004, Clarendon College administered CCSSE. Upon analyzing the results, the college decided to address the Active and Collaborative Learning Benchmark and CCSSE Item 12e, "Thinking critically and analytically," in their Quality Enhancement Program (QEP). The focus was further refined by a review of literature that indicated critical thinking and active and collaborative learning promote higher student involvement in the learning process and thus higher achievement.

One of the goals of the QEP was to improve student critical thinking through the incorporation of active learning teaching strategies. During the program's pilot, select faculty from the communications, science, math, and developmental studies departments were provided avenues to learn how to incorporate critical thinking and active learning teaching strategies into their classrooms. These faculty participated in workshops, online discussion groups, peer-coaching, and received manuals and textbooks pertaining to the subject.

In the second year of the program, faculty were provided additional opportunities for critical thinking and active learning training. In the third year (2008-2009), experienced faculty members will be utilized to provide training and mentoring so that additional faculty can be trained in critical thinking and active learning.

The first documentable results are the college's 2008 CCSSE data. Initial analyses indicate significant increases in both the Active and Collaborative Learning Benchmark and item 12e. Other indicators to be used are the comparative results of a pre-test

#### Active and Collaborative Learning Benchmark:

CCSSE 2008: 46.3

CCSSE 2006: 41.5

CCSSE 2004: 44.1

Item 12e: How much has your experience at this college contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas? Thinking critically and analytically. Percent of students answering quite a bit or very much:

CCSSE 2008: 67.9%

CCSSE 2006: 57.0%

CCSSE 2004: 59.6%

(first semester freshmen) and post-test (second semester freshmen) from the California Critical Thinking Skills Test, which analyzes induction, deduction, analysis, inference, and evaluation.

### **Did You Know?**

- Total number of Texas Small College Consortium participants (years 2004-2008): 44,138.
- In comparison to the 2008 CCSSE Cohort, 2008 TSCC respondents are more likely to indicate (quite a bit or very much) that their school provides the support needed to thrive socially (36.4% vs. 31%).
- Whereas 2008 TSCC full-time students indicate they are less likely than the full-time students in the 2008 CCSSE Cohort to spend 21+ hours working each

week (39.5% vs. 44.6%), TSCC full-time students respondents are more likely (22.7% vs. 17%) to spend 30+ hours providing care for dependents living with them (parents, children, spouse, etc.).

- 2008 TSCC respondents indicate that they find administrative personnel and offices to be more helpful, considerate, and flexible than those of the 2008 CCSSE Cohort (47.5% vs. 41.7%).
- 2008 TSCC respondents identify grants/scholarships as the primary source used to pay for tuition (40%) whereas 2008 CCSSE Cohort respondents identify their own income/savings as the primary source (39.9%).

For more information about the CCSSE Texas Small Colleges Consortium contact Sandra Shannon, CCSSE College Liaison, at [shannon@ccsse.org](mailto:shannon@ccsse.org) or 512-471-6907.

## **Conference and Workshop Opportunities for the Texas Small Colleges Consortium**

### **TSCC Mini-Workshop Conference Call February 3, 2009**

The mini-workshop will feature presentations from CCSSE member colleges: Coastal Carolina Community College will discuss the college's use of student engagement as a theme in their Quality Enhancement Plan; Clarendon College will share how they have used CCSSE data for institutional improvement in promoting active and collaborative learning; and College of the Mainland will discuss their participation in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (*SENSE*). Registration for the mini-workshop will open in January 2009.

### **Texas Association for Institutional Research (TAIR): Cowboy Up! Leading the Charge on Accountability and Assessment**

**March 2 – 5 ; Lubbock, TX**

[www.texas-air.org](http://www.texas-air.org)

#### ***“Institution Characteristics and Student Engagement: 2008 CCSSE Results”***

Results from the 2008 Texas Cohort of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement will be discussed. Of special interest will be an analysis of institution-level variables in order to capture important relationships between student characteristics and the institutions they attend. These institution-level factors include enrollment size, urbanicity, part-time and full-time student enrollment ratio, part-time and full-time faculty ratio, and per-student expenditures among others.

#### ***“The CCSSE SIG”***

Join CCSSE Senior Research Associate, Samuel Echevarria-Cruz, and Houston Community College System Research Associate, Margaret Drain, for an open panel Special Interest Group discussion about the Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

### **Texas Small Colleges Consortium CCSSE Workshop**

CCSSE will provide a workshop designed for leadership teams from the Texas Small Colleges, slated for November 2009. Stay tuned for forthcoming details.

For other workshop opportunities available to Member Colleges, visit the CCSSE Calendar at <http://www.ccsse.org/news/calendar.cfm>