



HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement

This issue of *CCSSE Highlights* offers information about how practitioners and researchers can learn about the many uses of results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). The upcoming 2005 CCSSE Workshop and various CCSSE presentations and workshops at statewide, regional, and national venues showcase ways to investigate student learning and engagement and inform institutional decision making. Please visit the CCSSE Calendar online at <http://www.ccsse.org/news/calendar.html> for more details.

2005 CCSSE Workshop

Mark your calendars for the 2005 CCSSE Workshop – Engagement by Design – Sunday, **May 29, 2005**, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hilton Austin Hotel. Workshop registration deadline is April 29, 2005; please register online at www.ccsse.org. The workshop will feature Vincent Tinto, Distinguished Professor of Higher Education at Syracuse University and member of CCSSE's National Advisory Board.



Tinto will discuss how learning communities have been adapted in two- and four-year colleges to serve the needs of academically under-prepared students. Further, he will share what we are learning from his current national study of the effectiveness of developmental education learning communities.

The 2005 CCSSE Workshop is held in conjunction with the NISOD International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, scheduled from May 29 – June 1

at the Austin Convention Center. For more information about the NISOD Conference, please visit www.nisod.org.

2005 CCSSE Workshop Agenda

Concurrent Sessions

Looking Behind the Numbers: Practicing Engagement by Design. In a hands-on session, participants will work on redesigning the experience for their college students from the moment they first get out of their cars in the parking lot until they complete their first 15 credit hours.

Engaging Students in the Classroom: A Faculty Panel Discussion. Three faculty panelists who teach in the developmental and service learning areas will share engagement strategies which address different learning styles and inspire creativity.

Reaching for Excellence: Top Performing Institutions Use CCSSE Results for Strategic Planning. This interactive session will allow participants to examine their CCSSE results in light of both internal and external constraints/opportunities and then to determine how these data feed into their institutional strategic planning.

Using CCSSE Data and CCSSE Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice: Advanced Session for Institutional Researchers. In an interactive session, participants will explore how to evaluate the results on CCSSE Benchmarks. Emphasis is on using results to focus work on improvement planning and accreditation requirements.

Plenary Session

Learning Communities for Academically Under-prepared Students. Evidence abounds that learning communities improve student success. Only recently, however, have learning communities been adapted to serve the needs of academically under-prepared students in two- and four-year colleges. Vincent Tinto will describe how they have been adapted and share what we are learning about their effectiveness from his current national study of developmental education learning communities.

Upcoming *CCSSE* Presentations and Workshops Spring – Summer 2005

The League for Innovation in the Community College Innovations 2005 March 6 – 9, 2005, New York, NY

Results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (*CCSSE*) make it clear that the best hopes for powerfully engaging community college students are found in highly intentional work to redesign their educational experiences. This session involves participants and leaders from *CCSSE* colleges discussing how we might redesign a first-semester experience using what we know about community college students, retention, and learning,

Council for the Study of Community Colleges 47th Annual Conference April 8 – 9, 2005, Boston, MA (in conjunction with the AACC National Convention)

CCSSE collects data on a wide variety of measures related to students' engagement behavior and their perceptions of the college environment. The survey was modified to be administered to instructors so that it measures instructors' perceptions of student engagement. This session presents results from the student and faculty surveys, highlighting notable disparities in students' and instructors' perceptions of students' behaviors and opinions.

American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention April 9 - 12, 2005, Boston, MA

The moderator will provide a brief overview of *CCSSE* 2004 results, with a special focus on evidence that reveals the challenge of engaging those community college students who juggle multiple priorities and numerous issues in their lives. From there, college leaders of "high-performing" 2004 *CCSSE* member colleges will share information about ways that their colleges are redesigning student learning experiences to promote student success.

American Educational Research Association 2005 Annual Meeting April 11 - 15, 2005, Montréal, Canada

This presentation uses *CCSSE* data to examine the following questions: (1) How do students differ in terms of their demographic characteristics and college experiences by age group? (2) How do traditional and non-traditional age community college students differ in their level of engagement in the following: faculty interactions, class assignments, school opinions, student services, and academic preparation?

National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence May 29 – June 1, 2005, Austin, TX

Innovative Developmental Education Programs: Results of a National Study. Cathy Engstrom and Vincent Tinto will share the results of their multi-method national study of innovative learning communities designed to promote the success of students who require academic assistance in two- and four-year colleges. Together with faculty who direct these programs, they will facilitate an interactive discussion of successful integration of collaborative learning strategies in diverse organizational structures, curriculum contexts, and faculty development efforts.

Students Speak Out About Student Retention. The *MetLife Foundation Initiative on Student Success* recognizes and rewards community colleges that demonstrate exemplary performance in student retention. A special feature of the *Initiative* is its emphasis on hearing and featuring students' voices. This special session will feature students eliciting their perspectives and opinions about their educational experience – specifically on issues of student success, retention, and persistence.

American Association for Institutional Research 2005 Annual Forum May 29 – June 1, 2005, San Diego, CA

Cross-sectional examination of data obtained from *CCSSE* consistently indicates that there are disproportionate numbers of developmental and minority students who have earned 15 credit hours or less. This session will explore the possibility that student engagement in educationally meaningful activities explains this gap.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Closing the Gaps: 21st Annual Recruitment and Retention Conference June 20, 2005, Austin, TX

This session will begin with a brief overview of *CCSSE* 2004 results, with a special focus on evidence that reveals the challenge of engaging community college students who juggle multiple priorities and numerous issues in their lives. Then, a panel of Texas community college leaders will share information about ways their colleges are redesigning the student learning experience to promote student success.