



# HIGHLIGHTS

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## **CCSSE Announces New Resources and Services**

This issue of *CCSSE Highlights* offers information about the upcoming **2006 CCSSE Workshop**. In addition, we describe some fresh and exciting survey companion tools that we believe our member colleges will find useful as they continue to investigate and strengthen student learning and engagement on their campuses. Available now at [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org) are these tools:

- **Course Feedback Form** for students' end-of-course evaluations—aligned with CCSSE surveys to provide feedback for individual class instructors (free)
- **Classroom Observation Form** emphasizing student engagement (free)

## **2006 CCSSE Workshop**

Mark your calendars for the 2006 CCSSE Workshop—*Student Engagement through Collaborative Learning*, scheduled for Sunday, May 28, 2006, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Austin. Workshop registration deadline is May 1, 2006; please register online at [www.ccsse.org/workshop](http://www.ccsse.org/workshop). The workshop will feature Elizabeth Barkley, Professor of Music at Foothill College (CA) and lead author (with K. Patricia Cross and Claire Howell Major) of *Collaborative Learning Techniques: A Handbook for College Faculty*. In this interactive workshop, you will 1) hear a brief synthesis of the research regarding group learning, 2) acquire practical information on topics such as how to form groups, assign roles, and assess student learning, and 3) learn group work techniques in several different categories, including discussion and problem solving. You will leave this workshop with solid information on how to make “group work” work.

## **2006 CCSSE Workshop Agenda**

### **Concurrent Sessions**

#### **CCSSE 101**

This session will provide a “walk through” of the CCSSE Institutional Report of survey results for workshop

participants unfamiliar with CCSSE's reports. Participants will discuss strategies for examining the various reports and for drilling deeper into the data in order to more fully understand student experiences at their colleges. The session also will highlight communication tools and strategies that can be used to convey survey results to internal and external audiences.

#### **CCSSE Advanced**

This session will provide suggestions for additional ways of looking at the CCSSE data beyond those included in the CCSSE Institutional Report. Facilitated by CCSSE research staff, the session is intended for participants who have already worked with their colleges' CCSSE data. Participants will also have the opportunity to ask specific technical or statistical questions of CCSSE research staff.

#### **Plenary Session and Welcome Luncheon**

#### **Making “Group Work” Work: Integrating Research and Practice to Strengthen Collaborative Learning**

Engaging students in active learning is a predominant theme in today's college classrooms. To promote active learning, teachers across the disciplines and in all kinds of colleges are incorporating collaborative learning into their teaching. In this interactive workshop, Elizabeth Barkley will discuss research regarding group learning; practical information on topics such as how to form groups, assign roles, and assess student learning; and group work techniques in several different categories, including discussion and problem solving.

#### **CCSSE News**

##### **The CCSSE Course Feedback Form**

We are pleased to announce the availability of the CCSSE Course Feedback Form. In order to create an end-of-course evaluation instrument that was optimally useful for community colleges—for course-level and programmatic-level assessment—the CCSSE Course Feedback Form was developed with the assistance of an advisory panel of administrators, counselors, and faculty members from six CCSSE member colleges. The instrument, based on student engagement items from the CCSSE survey and additional course feedback items submitted and reviewed by our advisory panel members, is available on our Web site. The CCSSE Course Feedback Form is provided free of

charge, as a benefit to CCSSE members and is intended for local administration and data analysis.

#### **The CCSSE Classroom Observation Form**

A second survey companion piece, the CCSSE Classroom Observation Form, was designed as a professional development tool to be used by deans, department heads, mentor faculty, and peer faculty. The instrument includes standard classroom review items, but keeps student engagement as its primary area of focus. Available on our Web site, the CCSSE Classroom Observation Form is provided free of charge, as a benefit to CCSSE members, and is intended for local administration and data analysis.

#### **CCSSE Sessions at Upcoming Conferences**

##### **The League for Innovation in the Community College Innovations 2006**

March 19–22, 2006, Atlanta, GA

##### **Faculty Perspectives on Student Engagement: A First Look**

Community college faculty talk about highlights from the 2005 Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE), a national instrument designed to assess faculty perceptions of institutional practices and student behaviors that promote student learning, engagement, and retention. During this session college leaders, administrators, and faculty will discuss the gaps between student and faculty perceptions of student engagement—and ways to close those gaps.

##### **Council for the Study of Community Colleges 48th Annual Conference**

April 21–22, 2006, Long Beach, CA

##### **The Compensatory Effect: Examining the Relationship Between Student Engagement and Educational Outcomes for Black and Hispanic Students in Community Colleges**

Recent findings from the CCSSE indicate that Black and Hispanic community college students are generally reporting higher levels of engagement in educationally meaningful activities than their White peers despite showing less successful outcomes in terms of grades and

persistence. We will present data suggesting these disparities could reflect a *Compensatory Effect*—the result of having to put forth greater effort to compensate for myriad challenges unique to historically underserved students in higher education.

##### **American Association of Community Colleges 2006 AACC Convention**

April 22–25, 2006, Long Beach, CA

##### **Leadership to Promote Student Engagement and Success: College Leaders Talk with Students about Challenging the Odds**

In this focus group discussion, college leaders and their students call to action the nation's community colleges to serve students who are most in need of education—and to show evidence of effectiveness. This session includes a much needed discussion that targets student engagement of "at risk" students and offers ways to promote the success of those who bring with them the most challenges.

##### **National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence**

May 28–31, 2006, Austin, TX

##### **Building Relationships that Promote Student Success**

Many students cite *relationships* as the most important factor in helping them stay in college and succeed. This session will explore ways in which community colleges foster student success by designing intentional strategies that build and sustain relationships. Through an interactive discussion, the voices of students, faculty, and student services professionals will identify challenges and opportunities to create and sustain supportive relationships and effective practices.

##### **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 featuring and hearing students' voices. This session will feature students, focusing on eliciting their perspectives and opinions about their educational experiences.

#### **2007 CCSSE and CCFSSSE**

##### **Online Registration Now Open at [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org)**

Join the other 471 colleges that have used CCSSE to elicit information about institutional practices and student behaviors that are highly correlated with student learning and retention.

2007 CCSSE member colleges are invited to join the 2007 Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE) for a flat fee of \$800.00. As of spring 2006, CCFSSSE will have surveyed faculty from 107 community colleges across the nation, and we anticipate increasing interest and participation in 2007.