



# HIGHLIGHTS

Published by the Center for Community College Student Engagement

## CCSSE's New Name

### **The Center for Community College Student Engagement Recognizes Growth and Impact**

The organization formerly known as the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) has become the Center for Community College Student Engagement. CCSSE remains the Center's flagship survey as we continue quantitative and qualitative work with community colleges across the United States, British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and the Northern Marianas and Marshall Islands.

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) was established in 2001 as a project of the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. Since 2002, the Center has surveyed more than 1 million community college students. Member colleges represent approximately 66% of U.S. community colleges (1,100+ accredited, public associate-degree-granting institutions).

Today, the Center is known nationally for a variety of activities and accomplishments including: CCSSE; the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE), a companion survey to the original student survey; and the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE), a new stand-alone survey in its first national administration in fall 2009. Qualitative research, including student interviews and focus groups, is conducted through the Center's *Starting Right* initiative.

In August 2008, the Center moved into a new building to accommodate growing operational needs. In conjunction with this move and in recognition of its broadening portfolio of services and the impact of its work, the organization was designated by The University of Texas at Austin as the Center for Community College Student Engagement. This name change will become apparent over the coming year. Watch for new publications and resources, as well as a new Web portal.

## Annual CCCSE Workshop

May 26, 2009 • Austin, Texas

**FREE for Member Colleges**

As part of an ongoing collaboration with the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) at The University of Texas at Austin, the Center for Community College Student Engagement will host the **2009 CCCSE Workshop** at the Four Seasons Hotel from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

The workshop plenary session will feature two distinguished authors and lecturers on quality in community college education practice: John E. Roueche, director of the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin, and Kay McClenney, director of the Center for Community College Student Engagement, will discuss **"High Expectations and High Support: How Colleges Are Changing the Formula for Student Success."**

The Center is committed to helping colleges use data to inform decisions, improve programs, and embrace practices that promote student engagement, learning, and retention. This annual workshop is offered FREE as a special service for member colleges. Other registrants of the NISOD International Conference are welcome to attend for a nominal fee. Space fills quickly, and advance registration is required. **Register online today at: [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org)**

Center staff members working on CCSSE, SENSE, and the *Starting Right* Initiative will also present sessions throughout the NISOD conference. The NISOD conference will be held May 24-27, 2009 in Austin, Texas. Learn more at: [www.nisod.org](http://www.nisod.org)

## CCSSE and Accreditation

The accreditation process for colleges and universities increasingly is focused on outcomes—what students know and are able to do because of their interactions with the institution. With this focus, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) can be a vital tool for community and technical colleges in each stage of the accreditation process.

From developing the framework for a self-study to providing evidence to visiting accreditation teams, CCSSE results can be used to depict student experiences and more effectively target improvement activities. Multiple administrations of CCSSE over time can reveal trends at an institution, supporting long-term self-evaluation and demonstrating the college's commitment to continuous improvement.

**Patrick Henry Community College (VA)** used CCSSE and Achieving the Dream data to develop and implement the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) required for regional reaccreditation. In their plan, the college makes a strong commitment to enhancing students' critical thinking skills through cooperative learning. Job descriptions and evaluation plans for full-time faculty were updated to include the required use of cooperative learning. Workshops are provided for new and returning adjunct faculty over the course of the academic year, and those who attend will be eligible for a pay increase over their per credit hour rate.

**Itawamba Community College (MS)** focused its QEP on improving writing. The college's 2006 CCSSE results were used in the formulation and focus of the plan, "Raising the Bar: Improving Student Writing Through

Early Intervention." ICC established three writing centers for improving student success in the use of grammar, mechanics, content, and organization in writing assignments; increasing the amount of writing required; improving the quality of writing required; and improving student satisfaction and engagement with instruction.

**Trinity Valley Community College (TX)** began preparing for reaccreditation with the establishment and implementation of a QEP. Faculty focus groups raised the issue of student engagement and, within the same time frame, the college participated in CCSSE. Alarmed by the institution's scores on four of the five CCSSE benchmarks, TVCC's QEP Task Force, later to be named the Learning Initiative Council, used these results as a catalyst for change. Projects were developed to shift the institutional culture from a teaching-learning institution to a learning-focused institution, including a year-long faculty and staff Learning Academy focused on increasing student engagement in and out of the classroom.

**Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (NC)** first participated in CCSSE in 2006. While the college's score on the active and collaborative learning benchmark in 2006 was above the mean for like-sized colleges, faculty members focused on improving their performance on specific elements that should result in students' active and collaborative learning. Today, RCCC finds CCSSE data "essential" to demonstrating the institution's performance towards meeting the QEP goals.

For more information about using CCSSE data for accreditation, visit the Members Only section of our Web site: [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org)

### CCSSE 2010 Membership is Now Open!

Register online for the Spring 2010 administrations of **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)** and **Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE)** at [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org).

**Registration deadline is November 1, 2009.**

For more information, visit [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org) or email [info@ccsse.org](mailto:info@ccsse.org).