



Engagement MATTERS

formerly *CCSSE Highlights*

Published by the Center for Community College Student Engagement

Center Follows Up on Pledge to Scale Up College Completion with High-Impact Practices Study

College Completion — Scaling Up

April 20, 2010 marked the day of an unprecedented and unified action as six national community college organizations committed to increasing student completion rates by 50% over the next decade while preserving access and quality. Joining the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE) was the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), the League for Innovation in the Community College, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. The historic document, entitled *Democracy's Colleges: Call to Action*, asks community college leaders, faculty, and staff “to identify ways to help students understand the added value of degrees and certifications, and to help them progress toward their goals.” The pledge also calls upon elected officials “to create the policy conditions that engage, support and reward community colleges in their work to strengthen student success.” The Center endorses this public pledge as a way to bring the “completion agenda” to the forefront of community college work, encouraging

institutions to shift their focus to encompass both access and student success.

This dialogue was continued at the annual NISOD conference in May with data from Achieving the Dream colleges, which incorporate CCCSE results. In many cases, real gains in college completion are possible through “mandatory assessment and placement tests, mandatory study skills courses for those in need of remediation, mandatory orientation programming, and strictly enforced registration deadlines” (*Inside Higher Ed*, June 1, 2010).

The need is great. As Byron McClenney, project director for Achieving the Dream at The University of Texas, CCCSE National Advisory Board member, and a fellow at the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin, says, “We need to think about the human beings involved.”

Scaling Up in Action

While many colleges are actively using results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) and the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) in the planning and execution of policies and practices, fall is an ideal time to invest time in discussing college completion goals for your institution in order to

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CCSSE 2011 Registration Open

Sign up online for the spring 2011 administrations of the **Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)** and the **Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE)** at www.ccsse.org/join/join.cfm.

Registration deadline is November 1, 2010

For more information, visit www.ccsse.org or contact us at 512-471-6807 or info@ccsse.org.

see if there are ways to encourage larger institutional interventions that can be scaled up to serve increasing numbers of students more effectively. Part of scaling up for your institution may be participation in the Center's spring 2011 High-Impact Practice surveys—student, faculty, and institutional surveys—all in conjunction with the regular CCSSE survey administration.

In response to increasing demand from the community college field and to escalating national emphasis on college persistence and completion, the Center invites colleges to participate in a timely and important initiative. Through a special study to be conducted in conjunction with the spring 2011 CCSSE administration, the Center intends to build on emerging knowledge about high-impact practices in promoting student success in community colleges.

Based on a vetted list of promising practices, a Special-Focus Module will be incorporated into the spring 2011 national administration of CCSSE. At the same time, a parallel item set will be added to the faculty survey, the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE), that is administered (at each college's option) in conjunction with CCSSE, exploring

the extent of faculty members' use of the identified promising practices in their teaching. A third module will explore institutional policies and practices related to student engagement through high-impact practices.

This work will produce information of significant value for community colleges inclusive of:

- ★ identification/confirmation of high-impact educational practices in community colleges;
- ★ quantification of the extent to which those practices are part of the experience of community college students;
- ★ analysis of whether participation in high-impact educational practices varies across subgroups of students;
- ★ and exploration of the extent to which student participation levels in defined promising practices are aligned with the efficacy of those respective practices in influencing an array of positive outcomes for students.

Further, faculty survey results will illuminate the current realities of teaching practice, and focus groups with full- and part-time faculty will provide their perspectives on the benefits and challenges of employing high-impact practices at scale. From an institutional perspective, survey results may be valuable in measuring the extent to which these practices are implemented across the college and the extent to which student engagement is fostered by such action.

Attention: *SENSE* Member Colleges

You're invited to participate in the
2011 Entering Student Success Institute
an engaging data retreat

To register a team or for more information,
visit www.enteringstudent.org.
Questions? Contact Angela Oriano-Darnall
at 512-475-6526 or oriano-darnall@cccse.org.

Space is limited and filling up quickly!

ESSI 2011
March 27-29
Santa Fe, NM

CCSSE Moves to Electronic Reporting

At the Center, one of the most common requests from member colleges has been for a localized executive summary of each college's student engagement survey results. Starting with CCSSE 2010, upon data release for each survey administration, member college presidents and consortium leaders will receive a Key Findings booklet. These tailored booklets provide college-specific data in an easy-to-read and easy-to-share format.

Additionally, members frequently express concern about the amount of paper and shipping our operation requires. To address this concern, we developed the *SENSE* with a robust electronic reporting system, and CCSSE moved to similar electronic reporting beginning late July 2010. Our *SENSE* and CCSSE online reporting systems offer intuitive, point-and-click access to data and flexibility in creating custom reports, while helping us radically reduce our carbon footprint. Producing the Key Findings booklets will require a fraction of the tons of paper previously processed into institutional reports each year and thereby reduce our shipping load, as well.