

Summary Results of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) Data

In fall 2003, Midlands Technical College (MTC) participated in a national project sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts to help determine how a college education increases the intellectual skills of students in five states. Students were asked to take two sections of the Work Keys examination and to complete the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) Survey.

Each participating college was asked to get a minimum of 100 students to participate in the project and funding for incentives were provided to the colleges to encourage participation. MTC was able to encourage the participation of 46 students and offered several incentives including: giving all testing participants a 10 percent discount coupon to the college bookstore, holding 10 drawings for cash prizes of \$50 during the testing session and awarding a prize of \$125 to each of the 4 top performers on the exams.

Nationally, almost all institutions experienced difficulty in soliciting student participation and the SC Commission on Higher Education, which coordinated participation of the SC colleges, has forwarded a letter to the national oversight committee asking that great care be taken in drawing conclusions from the Work Keys exam and CCSSE survey results related to the performance of college students enrolled in SC colleges.

Provided below is a summary of the survey findings. A copy of the entire report is included for further exploration. **The reader is cautioned against drawing any conclusions about the general MTC population based on these findings because of the number of participating students.**

General Findings:

- Midlands Technical College was rated at or above the level of other large colleges and other participating schools in all pertinent categories for this survey. Survey categories were designed to assess College Activities for Academic, Intellectual & Social Experiences, Student Satisfaction with Student Services, and Student Satisfaction with MTC in general as well as Educational and Personal Growth Experience.
- Percentages and mean rating scores were computed for questions in each category using an intensity scale to indicate which level they were rated at. Again, MTC's sample size (46 students) becomes an issue since the number of students surveyed at the college is relatively small in comparison to the other two college groups: "other large colleges" were 720 and "other participating schools" were 2470.
- T-tests were used to determine if there was a statistically significant difference between MTC and the other two groups. Results show that of the 98 variables accessed in the survey, only 11 were measured to be significantly different when compared to other large

To Assess Weekly Activities

COMMUTE - Commuting to and from classes
COCURR01 - Participating in college-sponsored activities

To Assess Quality of Relationships

ENVADM - Relationships with administrative personnel and offices

Student Services

USECACOU - Frequency: Career counseling
SATFAADV - Satisfaction: Financial aid advising
SATDISAB - Satisfaction: Services for people with disabilities
IMPTUTOR - Importance: Peer or other tutoring

- Demographics showed the highest percentages of survey participants were female, unmarried and in the 19-22 age group. Interestingly, when ask to identify their race, an overwhelming percentage of all race groups, except the white group, did not respond to this question.

Finally, because the college compared favorably to the other two college groups in this very limited survey sample; we recommend the college develop a process for administering the survey to a broader cohort of the general college population.

A complete copy of the survey findings is available through Assessment Research and Planning, by contacting Harriete Merrill at ext. 3583 or Carla Sadlier at ext. 3581.