# Engaging students at CCC 

Marilyn Sargent, Ph.D.<br>For Contra Costa College<br>Contra Costa Community College District

The CCSSE Survey and the Results
-Engagement:
" What is measured in the survey?

- Five domains linked to student success
-The Sample
Compare groups of colleges
"Compare items by student groups
-Student burdens
-Services


## Engagement: use of activities and services

"Patterns of students' outlay of time and energy across learning activities and services

- Patterns are affected by the availability and emphasis on learning activities and services


## 5 Key Benchmarks: domains of engagement

- Active and Collaborative Learning: Collaborating with others to solve problems
- Academic Challenge: Performing challenging intellectual and creative work
- Student Effort: Time spent on learning tasks and resources
- Student-Faculty Interaction: Exchanges with faculty
- Support for Learners: College provides and students receive the support to succeed


## Multiple domains of engagement

-Teaching and Learning strategies:

- Academic Challenge,
- Active and Collaborative learning
- Behavior: Student Effort
- Connection, relationships and information: Support for Learners


## Engagement spurs Outcomes

- Active Learning
- Student Effort
- Academic Challenge
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Support for Learners


## The meaning of scores: students report their experiences

-Student needs, motives, and choices shape the college experience
-Students report their experience, and report it differently

- Mix of students--scores reflect collective experience


## Survey items

" Multiple survey items contribute to each of the five benchmarks
" Multiple items support the validity of the benchmark domain measure

- Each item measures a slightly different aspect of that overall domain
- Compare items by student groups
- Students respond on 3-point, 4, or 7-point Likert scale of intensity or frequency: (How often? How much? How helpful?)
- Never, sometimes, often
- Very little, Some, Quite a bit, Very much
- Unhelpful to Helpful


## Active and Collaborative Learning: Example Question Items

How often have you--

- Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions
- Made a class presentation
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.)


## Student Effort: Example Question Items

This benchmark area reflects initiative taken by student How often have you--

- Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in
- Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources
Academic resources use comprises Student Effort
- How often have you used the following services?
- Skill labs (writing, math etc.)
- Computer lab
- Peer or other tutoring


## Academic Challenge: Example Question Items

- How much has your coursework emphasized the following mental activities?
Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory
- Mark the response that best represents the extent to which

Your examinations during the current school year have challenged you to do your best work at this college-from 1=Extremely easy to 7=Extremely challenging

## Student-Faculty Interaction: Example Questions

How often have you done each of the following?

- Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors on your performance
- Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor


## Support for Learners: Example Questions

How much does this college emphasize each of the following?

- Providing the support you need to help you succeed at this college
- Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social and racial or ethnic backgrounds


## The Samples

- 4CD Respondents
- CCC Respondents
- DVC Respondents
- LMC Respondents

2476
665
1111, Oversample 135* 700, Oversample 28*
*Oversample is not included in the reports online

## CCC Response Rates

- Response rates show the percentage of responses

|  | Overall rate | In-class average | Percent of classes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Medium CCSSE <br> Colleges | $52 \%$ | $62 \%$ | $84 \%$ |
| CCC | $54 \%$ | $61 \%$ | $90 \%$ |

- Overall: relation to total surveys provided
- In-class average: average \% completed within class
- Percent of classes: classes surveyed/classes in sample



## CCC CCSSE Sample



## CCC Student Population



[^0]
## Score of 50 is the benchmark for comparison

|  | CCSSE Scores |
| ---: | :---: |
| Highest Score | 71.3 |
| CCC--Above Average | 55.4 |
| Average | 50 |

## Benchmarks: CCC, 4CD, ACCJC CCSSE Colleges average is 50

70
$\square$ CCC $\square$ 4CD $\square$ ACCJC

60


## Benchmark Scores by College

70
$\square$ Active Collab Learning $\square$ Student Effort $\square$ Academic Challenge $\square$ Faculty Interaction $\square$ Support


## Benchmark Scores and CCSSE Percentiles

## Example: Academic Challenge

- College score is shown in relation to all CCSSE colleges (700)
- Percentiles show percentage of colleges with lower score
- CCC Academic Challenge score is 55.4
- $90 \%$ of all CCSSE colleges were below that score

| Academic Challenge | CCSSE Scores | CCSSE Cohort <br> Colleges below score | CCSSE Cohort <br> Percentile |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Highest Score | 71.3 | 700 | 100 |
| Above Average | 55.4 | 631 | 90 |
| Average | 50 | 350 | 50 |



## Compare 2012 to 2016 survey percentiles



## Benchmarks for Females, Males




## Benchmarks for Females, Males






Support for Learners


# CCC Benchmarks by Ethnicity <br> $\square$ African Amer Asian Hispanic $\square$ White 



## African-American: CCC and ACCJC



## Asian: CCC and ACCJC



## Hispanic: CCC and ACCJC



## White: CCC and ACCJC



## Scores and Gaps

-Very strong overall benchmark scores!
-Student Effort and Student-Faculty Interaction are above ACCJC
-Student Effort and Student-Faculty Interaction are very important factors that might be improved

## Achievement gaps are not Engagement gaps

-Females report higher scores overall-

- Gender difference in engagement is consistent with gender achievement gap (e.g. Scorecard)
- Among males, Student Effort shows 10 pt. gap from females!
-Engagement is strong across ethnic groups
- Almost all ethnicities report strong engagement
- Asians are restrained relative to ACCJC on Student Effort and Student Support and Student-Faculty Interaction


## Influences on student perceptions

- Engagement survey is self-reported: students' perceived experience
- Off-campus life affects campus experience: student needs and resources differ-affects contact with faculty, use of on-campus services
- Other influences: mandatory contact for athletes, for probationary students, online contact not captured

| Strong CCC items <br> (Q: How often or How much....) | CCC | ACCJC | CSSE Colleges |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Made a class presentation (Active Learn) | 38.9\%* | 34.2\% | 33.0\% |
| Prepared two or more drafts of paper before turning in (Effort) | 55.9\% | 53.5\% | 51.1\% |
| Using information to perform a new skill (Challenge) | 71.0\% | 65.5\% | 65.6\% |
| Analyzing the basic elements of idea, experience, theory (Challenge) | 75.8\% | 72.3\% | 70.4\% |
| Frequency career counseling (Support) | 39.4\% | 38\% | 29.9\% |
| Encouraging contact among students from different backgrounds (Support) | 66.2\% | 57.8\% | 54.6\% |
| Tutoring (peer/other) (Effort) | 39.6\% | 34.1\% | 31.6\% |

*\% is average frequency in the two highest response categories: quite a bit + very much or offen + very often

| Effort, Faculty Interaction liems <br> Ifems are about = or < CCSSE | CCC | ACCJC | All CCSSE <br> Colleges |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Asked questions in class (Active Learning) | $63.1 \%$ | $57.3 \%$ | $65 \%$ |
| Talked about career plans with instructor <br> (Faculty Interaction) | $31.5 \%$ | $27.7 \%$ | $31.5 \%$ |
| Use Computer Labs (Effort) | $54.4 \%$ | $54.4 \%$ | $60.9 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| Came to class with completed assignment (Effort) |  |  |  |
| (\% Response: Always) | $30 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $34 \%$ |

*\% is average frequency in the two highest response categories: quite a bit + very much or often + very often

## Academic Challenge

How much reading and writing have you done?
Number of papers and reports this year at this college


## Academic Challenge

How much reading and writing have you done?
Number of papers and reports


Academic Challenge: How much has coursework emphasizedAnalyzing elements of idea, experience or theory: Percent marked "Quite a bit" and "Very much"


## Academic Challenge:

Worked harder than you thought you could to meet instructor's standards or expectations


## Support for Learners

How much does this college emphasize:
Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social and racial or ethnic backgrounds


## Student Effort: <br> How often have you used the computer lab?



## Student-Faculty Interaction



Student Faculty Interaction: How often have you:


Student Effort Items: 2012 v 2016


## $1^{\text {st }}$ Generation Students

- Compose significant proportion of students: $48 \%$
- Compose almost half of respondents: $46 \%$
- Depend upon college resources
- Do $1^{\text {st }}$ generation differ in engagement?

| Use resources and meet <br> requirements | First <br> Generation | Not First <br> Generation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Talked about career plans with <br> instructor <br> (Faculty Interaction) | $36 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Use Computer Labs (Effort) | $55 \%$ | $50 \%$ |
| Came to class with completed <br> assignment (Effort) <br> (\% Response: Always) | $33 \%$ | $24 \%$ |

# Academic Learning/Engagement <br> <br> First <br> <br> First <br> <br> Generation 

 <br> <br> Generation}

## Making judgements about the value of information* (Ac Challenge) <br> 57\%

$66 \%$

Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or new situations* (Ac Challenge)

$$
62 \%
$$

$69 \%$

## Asked questions in class

(Active Learning)
$61 \%$
$66 \%$
*How much has coursework emphasized..: \% Quite a bit or very much

## CCC Strengths and Improvements

CCC shows strength in Academic Challenge, Active Learning
Student Effort, Student-Faculty Interaction are above ACCJC

- But these important domains are lower than the other domains
- Student Effort
- Effort makes biggest difference in success
- Males report less effort than females
- Some drops since 2012

Student-Faculty Interaction

- Stimulates student effort, motivation
- Supports student potential and direction


## Life influences on student success

Life stresses and commitments affect success:

- Working students
- Family obligations
- Financial stress


## Burdens and Barriers: Reasons to Withdraw

Percentage "Likely" or "Very Likely" to withdraw for following reason


## I find myself living paycheck to paycheck

\% Response<br>Each Category

Strongly agree ..... 33\%
Agree ..... 26\%
Disagree ..... 18\%
Strongly disagree ..... 7\%I am not currently employed 16\%

## Services: Importance and Satisfaction

## 3 point scale ■ Important ■ Satisfied



## Gap between Importance and Satisfaction

Bars show gaps: greater importance than satisfaction


## Services needs highlighted

- Academic advising/counseling,
-Transfer credit assistance,
- Career counseling,
- Job placement assistance
-Financial aid advising


## Entire Experience



Entire College Experience 2012 v 2016


## Student-Faculty Interaction to Motivate Effort



ACADEMIC PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENT

- 70\% of students who are unprepared for class (often, very offen unprepared) infrequently talk to faculty about careers (never, sometimes)
- $62 \%$ who never reworked a draft infrequently discussed grades with instructor


## BUT--

- $68.5 \%$ who very often reworked a paper draft frequently discussed grades with instructor


## ENGAGEMENT ON PATHWAY TO COMPLETION

## ACTIVE LEARNING \&

CHALLENGE


ENROLL
 PROGRESS

SUCCESS
COMPLETION

## KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

- Presentation sources:
- CCSSE
- McClenney and Marti (2008)
- Chickering and Gamson (1987)


[^0]:    - Asian. Filipino
    - Hispanic
    - White
    - Missing.Unk

