Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)

Greenfield's Second Look
The national CCSSE survey questions students on a wide variety of measures of student engagement.

The survey is a valuable tool to assess how well GCC performs and meets student needs relative to other community colleges across the U.S. and relative to itself.

Reports can be found at www.gcc.mass.edu/about/ccsse.html
CCSSE ‘06 National Sample

2006 Submissions
- 249,548 usable surveys
- 40% male (41% cohort CC rate)
- 65% 18-24 yrs, 24% 25-39 yrs
- 69% full-time
- 37% first generation
- 46% fewer than 15 credits
- 57% work 21 or more hrs/week

Comparison Cohort (change in definition 04,05,06 included)
- 447 Community Colleges (257 in ‘05)
- 46 States (38 in ’05)
- REPRESENTS 42% of the national CC student population
When?
- Mar-Apr 06

Who?
- 55 sections

How many?
- 506 surveys submitted

Why?
- Comparison groups
  - OVERALL: National sample of all CCs
  - RELATIVE: Other small colleges & rural colleges
  - SELF: Repeated measurements
Benchmarks: engagement

- **Active and Collaborative Learning** – students learn more when they are actively involved in their education and have opportunities to think about and apply what they are learning in different settings.

- **Support for Learners** – students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that are committed to their success and cultivate positive working and social relationships among groups on campus.

- **Student Effort** – students’ behaviors contribute to their learning and achievement of their educational goals.

- **Academic Challenge** - challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning

- **Student-Faculty Interaction** – the more interaction students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and persist.
Benchmark:
GCC decile vs. national sample

Stu-Fac Interaction
Support for Learners
Academic Challenge
Act/Coll Learning
Student Effort
• Comparison group matters
• Enlarged cohort to “diminish impact of consortia”
  – 05 was tech heavy
• 06 benchmarks more accurately reflect GCC’s standing.
GCC is above average on all 5 CCSSE benchmarks regardless of comparison group.
Validation Studies Completed

Discrepancy between retention and engagement?

- New data published in December
- Related CCSSE to retention
- Key findings
  - Strongest effects related to academic achievement
    - Academic Challenge
    - Active and Collaborative Learning
    - Student Faculty Interaction
  - Early persistence is associated with:
    - Support for Learners and Student Services
    - Active and Collaborative learning (sometimes)

Early persistence: 2nd term or 2nd year
Follow-up

• Compare GCC with other small rural CCs with high retention rates who participated in CCSSE

• Look at profiles of service users and non-users

• Outline unmet needs in specific subgroups of students
Overall finding

Students attending Greenfield Community College are positively engaged by activities that foster strong faculty-student interaction and engagement.