

National Transparency Initiatives: Where are they now?



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The Heat is On

- Unprecedented public challenges for higher education to be more accountable for results.
- Accompanying external demands for information about student and institutional performance are growing calls for institutions and accreditors to become more transparent about what they do and the results they achieve.

(Ewell, 2010)



Be Careful What You Wish For

- To balance legitimate demands of public interest and institutional autonomy, we need to determine the appropriate and acceptable applications of transparency efforts and ameliorate problematic aspects of making data public.
- It is especially important to discourage unacceptable uses of information by others.

(Kuh, 2007)

ASSESS FOR SUCCESS: A BOTTOMS-UP APPROACH

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2011 Assessment Institute
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National Association of Independent
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FRAMING THE CONVERSATION

- **Role**
- **Responsibility**
- **Relationship**

POLICY POSITION

• **Learning outcomes assessment?**



• **One-size-fits-all template?**



*We oppose a single, one-size-fits-all, federally mandated measure of student learning —
NOT learning outcomes assessment.*

- **Context Matters!**
- **Assessment for improvement is different from assessment for accountability.**
- **Prescribed, common standards and measures stifle innovation and compromise quality.**



Who? A partnership between NAICU and CIC.

What?

- Web-based; searchable; open to the public.
- A compendium of campus programs driven by assessment activities.
 - Range of educational experiences: academic, social, global.
 - Diverse targets.
 - Contextualized to mission.
- Assess → Address → Re-Assess → Adjust
- Collected via member survey.
 - Institutions, state associations and consortia.

Goal? Share, learn, improve.



DIVERSE INSTITUTIONS, MISSIONS, PROGRAMS, POPULATIONS → DIVERSE APPROACHES

NSSE

FSSE

CLA

CIRP TFS and CIRP CSS

Global Perspective Inventory

Student Satisfaction Inventory

College Students Beliefs and Values Survey

Customized assessment tools

Institution databases and systems

Surveys - students, faculty, alumni, employers

Consortia



Where are we now?

Over 650 programs and growing!

Search database alphabetically by institution name, state or target audience.



Search Topics

- :: Academic Support Services
- :: Access
- :: All Undergraduates
- :: At-risk
- :: Career Planning
- :: CIC –Walmart Program
- :: Community College Partnerships
- :: Conditionally Admitted
- :: Early Warning/Probation
- :: Experiential Learning/Employment
- :: First-generation
- :: First-time Freshmen
- :: First-year Experience
- :: First-year Students
- :: Gender-targeted
- :: Government-funded
- :: Graduate Students, Graduate School Preparation
- :: Institutional/Private Scholarships
- :: Leadership Development, Personal Assessment
- :: Low-income
- :: Multi-cultural Programs
- :: New/Planned Initiatives
- :: Non-traditional/Adult Students/Commuter Students
- :: Pre-College/Middle & Secondary School Partnerships
- :: Racial/Ethnic Minority Students
- :: Retention/Persistence
- :: Second-year Experience
- :: State
- :: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Medicine
- :: Students with Disabilities
- :: Summer/Bridge Programs
- :: Teacher Preparation
- :: Transfer Students
- :: Tutoring/Mentoring
- :: Under-represented Populations
- :: Underprepared Students
- :: Unique/Other



Kalamazoo College (MI)

The focus of our initiative is to maintain strong learning outcomes as measured by the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) while improving the lived experience of students as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the CIRP TFS and the CIRP CSS. We have analyzed data from the NSSE and the CLA. We will now conduct focus groups with students, faculty, and staff to drill down on what we see in the quantitative data. At the end of the research phase of this project, we will determine what elements to include in a program to improve the campus environment and make it more supportive to meet student needs.

Connecticut College (CT)

There have been very successful students who have transferred elsewhere for a better intellectual climate. The key portion of our initiative will be to track students in as close to "real time" as possible, with data from multiple sources to tell us about their experiences (CIRP, NSSE, institutional data, etc.). So, it is really an effort to create a very rich "retention" database to identify the characteristics of those students who persist and those who do not, and then create and implement strategies and programs to address the issues that lead to student transfer.



The Future:

- **Progress report to be released in 2012**
 - **Sustained effort and interest**
- **Policy-level engagement – federal and state**



Thank You.

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