

# the QUEST

Increasing student learning through improved engagement!

Quality Enhancement Plan Newsletter  
Volume 3, Issue 1

FALL 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE:

How to use CCSSE Data	2
2012-13 QEP Pilot Applications	3
VCIC Update	3

CRIQUETT LEHMAN  
Director of QEP



QEP

## Assessment—Community College Survey of Student Engagement



### CCSSE Survey Results 2011

Each year, the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) presents the results of its annual survey. These survey results help community colleges assess their educational practices so they can improve student outcomes in one of the most challenging and least understood sectors of American higher education.

To assist colleges in their efforts to reach for excellence, CCSSE has introduced national benchmarks of effective educational practice in community colleges. Research shows that the more actively engaged students are — with college faculty and staff, with other students, and with the subject matter — the more likely they are to learn and to achieve their academic goals. CCSSE benchmarks focus on institutional practices and student behaviors that promote student engagement — and that are positively related to student learning and persistence.

#### WHAT IS A BENCHMARK?

The CCSSE benchmarks are groups of conceptually related survey items that address key areas of student engagement. The five benchmarks denote areas that educational research has shown to be important to students' college experiences and educational outcomes. Therefore, they provide colleges with a useful starting point for looking at institutional results and allow colleges to gauge and monitor their performance in areas that are central to their work. In addition, participating colleges have the opportunity to make appropriate and useful comparisons between their performance and that of other groups of similar colleges.

Performing as well as the national average or a peer-group average may be a reasonable initial aspiration, but it is important to recognize that these averages are sometimes unacceptably low. Aspiring to match

and then exceed high-performance targets is the stronger strategy.

CCSSE uses a three-year cohort of participating colleges in all core survey analyses. The current cohort is referred to as the 2011 CCSSE Cohort (2009-2011) throughout all reports.

#### CCSSE BENCHMARKS

**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. Through collaborating with others to solve problems or master challenging content, students develop valuable skills that prepare them to deal with real-life situations and problems.

**Student Effort.** Students' own behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood that they will successfully attain their educational goals.

**Academic Challenge.** Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. These survey items address the nature and amount of assigned academic work, the complexity of cognitive tasks presented to students, and the rigor of examinations used to evaluate student performance.

**Student-Faculty Interaction.** In general, the more contact students have with their teachers, the more likely they are to learn effectively and to persist toward achievement of their educational goals. Through such interactions, faculty members become role models, mentors, and guides for continuous, lifelong learning.

**Support for Learners.** Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that provide important support services, cultivate positive relationships among groups on campus, and demonstrate commitment to their success.

#### WHAT IS A CONSORTIUM?

Many colleges choose to participate in the CCSSE through consortia membership. A CCSSE consortium may comprise (a) three or more colleges in a multi-college district or system or in a state, or (b) a group of five or more colleges with common interests or challenges. Consortium members share reports and may elect to administer the same additional custom items (up to 15) across all colleges in the consortium.

#### TEXAS SMALL COLLEGES CONSORTIUM

This is the seventh year for the Texas Small Colleges Consortium. With continued support from the [Houston Endowment Inc.](#), these 13 Texas small community

# the QUEST

Increasing student learning through improved engagement!

Page 2

## Survey Results continued

colleges have joined *CCSSE* to gain valuable information about the engagement, learning, and retention of the students they serve, as well as to build institutional capacity for collecting, understanding, and using data about educational practices and student success.

### 2011 Membership

Angelina College (TX)  
College of the Mainland (TX)  
El Centro College (TX)  
Frank Phillips College (TX)  
Lamar State College - Orange (TX)  
Northeast Texas Community College (TX)  
Ranger College (TX)  
Temple College (TX)  
Texas State Technical College Marshall (TX)  
Texas State Technical College Waco (TX)  
Trinity Valley Community College (TX)  
Vernon College (TX)  
Western Texas College (TX)

### WHERE IS THE DATA?

In a continued effort to share student engagement data, the Office of Quality Enhancement has been providing *CCSSE* data in the form of "Student Engagement Data Facts" to the college community through the President's monthly College Update and weekly through the VC daily emails.

In addition to the Student Engagement Data Facts, full reports have been prepared by the Center for Community College Student Engagement. The first report is an institutional report containing key findings from VC's 2011 *CCSSE* data. Click here to view the report: [2011 CCSSE Institutional Report](#). Other reports include national comparisons for 2009 and 2011, consortium comparisons for 2009 and 2011, and student engagement data fact institutional comparisons for 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2011. The Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE) reports for 2009 and 2011 and the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) results for 2009 are also available.

All reports are posted in Blackboard in the Quality Enhancement course. Currently the President, Administrative Team, College Effectiveness Committee Members and QEP Implementation Committee Members have access. However, any college employee may be given access to these reports through Blackboard by contacting Criquet Lehman at [cslehman@vernoncollege.edu](mailto:cslehman@vernoncollege.edu).

### HOW DO I USE THE DATA?

Once student engagement data is reviewed, it may be used to identify areas or processes in need of improvement.

When examining the data, it is recommended that you consider the following:

- ✓ What data confirm facts you already know?
- ✓ What results did you not expect?
- ✓ What areas appear to be meeting your college's goals/expectations?
- ✓ What areas appear to need further investigation?

The next step is to begin a more substantial data review process by taking time to examine individual survey items that can shed light on specific aspects of your component's efforts. Then identify your high priority objectives and compare where you are now with where you want to be. Once these have been addressed, and *CCSSE* results have been examined in conjunction with other institutionally-relevant data, a set of strategic goals can be established and then pursued.

Statement of need and assessment are two of the required components in the Vernon College annual action plans. *CCSSE* data is a potential source for decision making in the areas of facilities, institutional improvement, personnel, and technology. Collaboration and connectivity is the foundation for success in achievement of student learning outcomes. Emphasis should be placed on providing strategies for incorporating engagement into courses and services which will lead to higher achievement of student learning outcomes.

A scheduled review of *CCSSE* data will be conducted to ensure college-wide awareness of results and to identify potential areas for improvement on Friday, October 28th for a representative group of employees from all five components.

*Portions of CCSSE Survey Results 2011 adapted from [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org), October 12, 2011.*



# the QUEST

Increasing student learning through improved engagement!

Page 3



Criquett Lehman  
Director of Quality Enhancement  
csluhman@vernoncollege.edu  
(940) 552-6291 VER  
Ext. 2335  
(940) 696-8752 CCC  
Ext. 3308



Roxie Hill  
Instructional Design &  
Technology Coordinator  
rhill@vernoncollege.edu  
(940) 552-6291 VER  
Ext. 2316  
(940) 696-8752 CCC  
Ext. 3308



Vernon Campus:  
VC Innovation Center  
Library RM 208

Century City Center:  
VC Innovation Center  
RM 505

Skills Training Center:  
VC Innovation Center  
RM 400

## QEP Pilot Applications

### VCONNECTED TEAM

How can you create learning experiences that effectively use tools and resources to ensure that your students gain new knowledge and skills? The VC Innovation Center (VCIC) provides the technology training and support you need. Submit your innovative ideas and be a part of the VConnected Team! Applications are now being accepted.

### PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS

Pilot projects should address the goals of the QEP: Increase student learning through improved engagement by

- \* transforming curriculum and instruction,
- \* participating in professional development opportunities, and
- \* creating a technology rich environment.

Click the VConnected logo to view the pilot application promotional video. The video includes the 3 easy steps on how to apply.

If you are selected as a 2012-13 VConnected Team member, your pilot project will begin in the Fall 2012 semester. Each team member will submit an end of year summary report at the conclusion of the Spring 2013 semester to assist in determining the feasibility of incorporating the technology and/or engagement techniques college-wide. VConnected Team members also receive a one time stipend for their participation in the QEP.

If you need an application or would like to discuss an idea, contact [Criquett Lehman](#).

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, **November 11, 2011**.



## Professional Development

### VCIC—VERNON COLLEGE INNOVATION CENTER

The Vernon College Innovation Center (VCIC), will feature **Technology Day\***  
*Refreshments will be served.*

October 26 at CCC  
from 10AM- 12PM  
in CCC 505

November 3 at Vernon  
From 10AM-12PM in  
Wright Library, Suite 209

Technologies Showcased:  
**Camtasia**  
**SoftChalk**  
**Qwizdom Clickers**

Future sessions will include the following topics...

- ✓ Copy Right Clearance
- ✓ Assessing Online (while maintaining validity, integrity, and reliability)
- ✓ Instructional Strategies for Face to Face and Online Environments
- ✓ Classroom Assessment Techniques

If you would like to request individual or group training or have a suggestion for professional development sessions, please contact [Roxie Hill](#).



\* Note: Technology Day will replace the originally scheduled VCIC sessions – **No sessions will be held on October 17, 18, 20, 25, 26, 27.**