



## *Did You Know?*

### **This issue's topic: Continued Results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) Spring 2009**

**Overview:** In the following, a portion of the results from the spring 2009 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) at Crafton Hills College (CHC) were briefly summarized. CCSSE provides information to community colleges that can help in planning, evidence based decision making, and to promote improvements in student learning and persistence. The purpose of CCSSE (2009) is to examine student engagement, "or the amount of time and energy that students invest in meaningful educational practices." CHC students responded to over 150 questions on the CCSSE. Additional results from the CCSSE are available for review in the Office of Research and Planning upon request. The methodology and sample of CCSSE are briefly described at the end of this document.

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#### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

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#### **CHC Student Self Perceptions** (see Table 1)

- 43.5% of the respondents think of themselves primarily as a student who also works.
- 59.6% rated their Academic Ability as above average or higher.
- 59.3% rated themselves as Prepared for a Competitive Workforce at above average or higher.
- 70.1% rated their Drive to Achieve at above average or higher.

#### **CHC Student Goals** (see Table 2)

- 60.9% of respondents identified their primary goal as transferring to a four-year college.
- 50.6% of respondents identified their primary goal as obtaining an Associate Degree.

#### **Likely reasons students may withdraw from CHC** (see Table 3)

- 53.9% of the respondents identified transferring to a four-year college as a likely or very likely reason to withdraw from CHC.
- 45.1% of the respondents identified lack of finances as a likely or very likely reason to withdraw from CHC.

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Please rate yourself on the following trait as compared with the average person your age:</b>		
<b>Academic ability</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
A. Top 10%	118	18%
B. Above average	273	<b>41.6%</b>
C. Average	232	35.3%
D. Below Average	27	4.1%
E. Bottom 10%	7	1.1%
<b>Prepared for a competitive workforce</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
A. Top 10%	142	21.7%
B. Above average	246	<b>37.6%</b>
C. Average	230	35.1%
D. Below Average	29	4.4%
E. Bottom 10%	8	1.1%
<b>Drive to achieve</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
A. Top 10%	212	32.3%
B. Above average	248	<b>37.8%</b>
C. Average	172	26.2%
D. Below Average	19	2.9%
E. Bottom 10%	5	.8%

Table 2 Indicate which of the following are your reasons/goals for attending this college:	Not a goal		Secondary goal		Primary goal	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Complete a certificate program	380	<b>54.8</b>	121	17.4	193	27.8
Obtain an associate degree	141	20.3	201	29.0	351	<b>50.6</b>
Transfer to a 4-year college or university	133	19.1	139	20.0	424	<b>60.9</b>
Obtain or update job-related skills	283	<b>41.1</b>	169	24.5	237	34.4
Self-improvement/personal enjoyment	201	28.9	258	<b>37.1</b>	237	34.1
Change careers	438	<b>63.1</b>	96	13.8	160	23.1

Table 3 How likely is it that the following issues would cause you to withdraw from class or from this college?	Not Likely		Somewhat Likely		Likely		Very Likely	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Working full-time	248	<b>35.2</b>	175	24.8	134	19.0	148	21.0
Caring for dependents	337	<b>47.9</b>	151	21.4	119	16.9	97	13.8
Academically unprepared	391	<b>55.7</b>	171	24.4	88	12.5	52	7.4
Lack of finances	235	<b>33.4</b>	151	21.5	121	17.2	196	27.9
Transfer to a 4-year college or university	197	28.1	126	18.0	118	16.8	260	<b>37.1</b>

**Methodology:** The CCSSE was administered in spring 2009 to a random sample of 41 weekly census sections at CHC with 10 or more students enrolled. Accordingly, the results are most likely representative of CHC students who take a weekly census course (i.e. a course that spans the entire length of the semester). In spring 2009 weekly census sections consisted of 69% of the sections offered at CHC and 82% (n = 5,379) of the students who were enrolled at census were enrolled in a weekly census section. Approximately, 1,115 students in the 41 sections had an opportunity to complete the survey, of those 701 (63%) responded. In addition to summarizing general findings from the CCSSE, CHC responses were also compared by the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin (i.e. developers of CCSSE) to a comparison group of institutions.

**Sample:** A representative sample of 701 CHC students completed the CCSSE survey during the spring 2009 semester. Similar to the CHC population, students who responded to the survey were more likely to be female (55%), Caucasian (56%) or Hispanic (24%), and 18 – 19 years old (33%) or 20 – 21 years old (25%). Conversely, survey respondents were more likely to identify themselves as full-time (62%) than the general CHC population (29%).

### References:

CCSSE. (2009). *2009 Institutional Report: Overview of National 2009 CCSSE Cohort Survey Results*.

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