

Promoting Student Success: WHAT MATTERS MOST



Elgin Community College, 2010

Community College Students





STAND UP...

- **If you ever attended a community/technical college.**
- **If you graduated from a community/technical college**
- **If you earned a degree while attending college as a part-time student; while working 20+ hours/wk**
- **If you ever, for any reason, stopped/dropped out of college**
- **If you were the first in your family to attend college**



STAND UP...

- **If you ever had to choose between buying groceries and buying books for your college classes**
- **If English is your second language**
- **If in the course of your daily college life, you found yourself in the minority (race/ethnicity/gender) in most situations**
- **If you can name an individual who made a significant difference in your development and success in college.**

WHAT WE'RE LEARNING *About WHAT MATTERS MOST*







WHAT MATTERS MOST

#1 Engagement matters

...for community and technical college students



Illinois and *CCSSE* (35 Colleges)

Black Hawk College (2003 , 2005 , 2006

College of DuPage (2003 , 2006 , [2009](#))

College of Lake County (2003 2005, [2007](#),
2010)

Danville Area Community College (2004,
2006 , [2009](#))

Elgin Community College (2009)

Harold Washington College (005)

Harper College (2006 , [2009](#))

Heartland Community College ([2007](#))

Illinois Central College (2004 , 2006
[2008](#), 2010)

Illinois Valley Community College (2003,
2006 , [2009](#))

John Wood Community College ([2008](#) , [2009](#))

Joliet Junior College ([2007](#) , [2008](#) , [2009](#) , 2010)

Kankakee Community College (2004 , 2005 , [2007](#),
[2009](#))

Kaskaskia College (2003 , 2010)

Lake Land College (2010)

Lincoln Land Community College (2002 , 2005,
[2009](#))

Malcolm X College (2006)

McHenry County College (2004 , [2007](#) , 2010)

Moraine Valley Community College (2002 , 2005,
[2008](#))



Illinois and *CCSSE* (35 Colleges)

Morton College ([2009](#))

Oakton Community College (2003 , 2006, [2009](#))

Olive-Harvey College ([2009](#))

Parkland College (2003 , 2005 , [2007](#), 2010)

Prairie State College (2006 , [2008](#) , 2010)

Rend Lake College (2005 , [2007](#) , [2009](#))

Richard J. Daley College ([2007](#) , 2010)

Rock Valley College (2010)

Shawnee Community College (2003)

South Suburban College (2004 , 2005 , 2006, [2007](#) , [2008](#))

Southwestern Illinois College (2005 , 2010)

Spoon River College ([2007](#) , 2010)

Triton College (2006 , [2009](#))

Truman College ([2007](#) , [2009](#))

Waubonsee Community College (2010)

Wilbur Wright College (2005 , [2007](#) , [2009](#))



Emphasis on Student Engagement

- **20 Years of Research on Undergraduate Student Learning, Persistence and Success**
- **3 Years of Research on Students in Community and Technical Colleges**



Engagement Matters – furthermore...

**In two-year colleges, engagement
is unlikely to happen by accident.**

It has to happen *by design*.



WHAT MATTERS MOST

#2 We must engage students *early and often.*

Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE)



Illinois and SENSE (8 Colleges)

Black Hawk College (2008)

College of DuPage (2008)

Harper College (2008)

John A. Logan College (2009)

Malcolm X College (2009)

Oakton Community College (2008)

Prairie State College (2009)

Richard J. Daley College (2008)



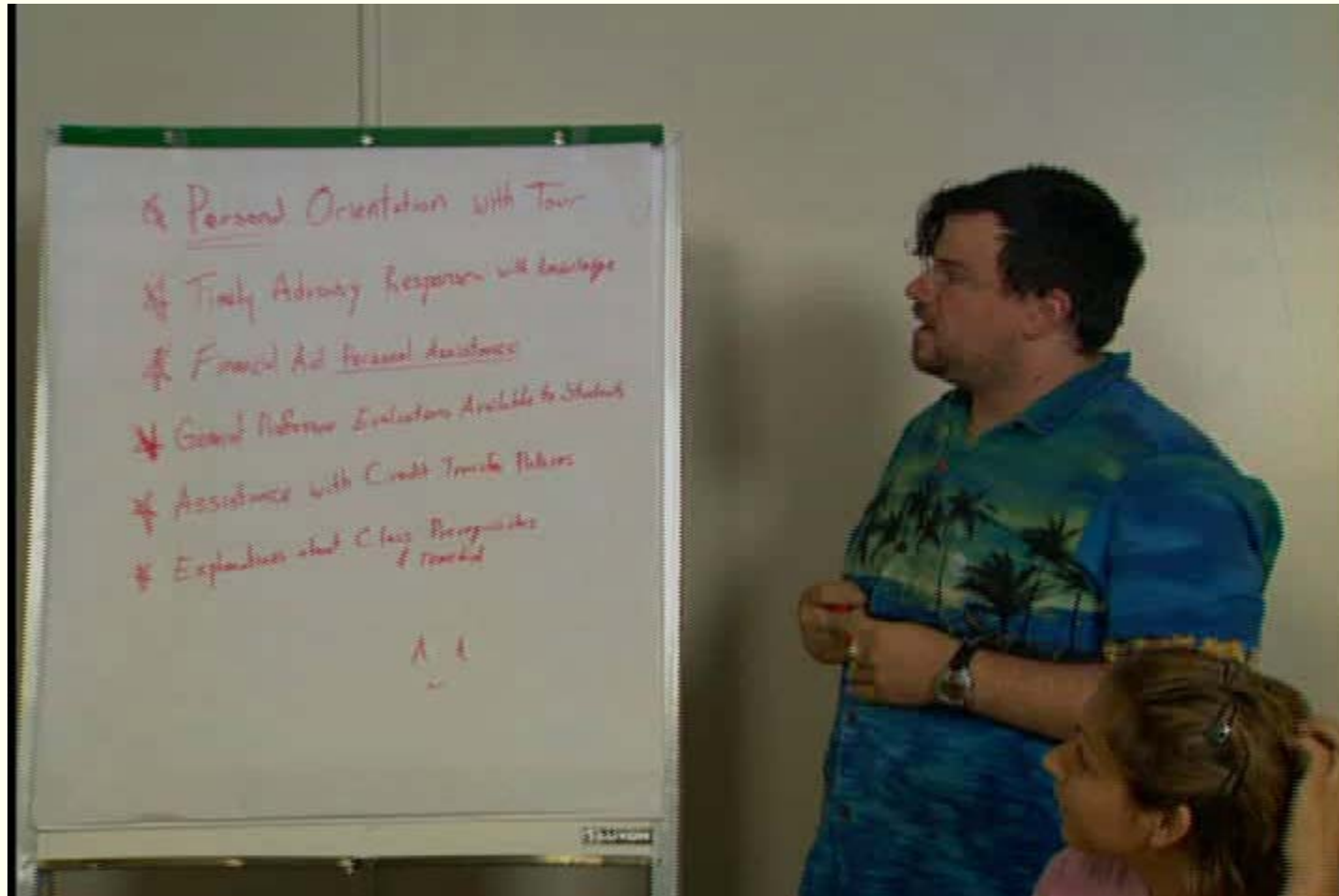
WHAT MATTERS MOST

In focus groups with students, what do they typically report as the most important factor in keeping them in school, persisting toward their goals?

#3 Relationships matter



Personal Connections





Relationships: Active and Collaborative Learning

Worked with other students on projects during class:

Elgin Community College (2009):

50% *often or very often* (10% *never*)

National (2009):

46% *often or very often* (13% *never*)



Relationships: Active and Collaborative Learning

**Worked with classmates outside of class to
prepare class assignments:**

Elgin Community College (2009):

15% *often or very often* (42% *never*)

National:

22% *often or very often* (41% *never*)



Relationships: Student-Faculty Interaction

Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class:

Elgin Community College (2009):

17% often or very often (47% never)

National:

17% often or very often (47% never)



Support for Learners

Most

Important

Service?



Support for Learners: Most Important Service?

Elgin Community College: very or somewhat important

89% Academic Planning and Advising

83% Computer Labs

81% Career Counseling

78% Financial Aid



What Matters Most:

#4 A Plan and a Pathway





What is a “good class?”



ENGAGED LEARNING





WHAT MATTERS MOST

**#5 High (and clear)
expectations matter...**



Academic Challenge

***Full-time* students who wrote 4 or fewer papers or reports *of any length* during the academic year:**

Elgin Community College (2009): 24%

National: 29%



WHAT MATTERS MOST

#6 *Effective Developmental Education Matters Hugely*

- **Data points**
- **Academic policy and support services**
- ***How we teach***



An Effective Track to College Readiness





WHAT MATTERS MOST

7 *Focused, sustained* efforts, targeted to significant numbers of students, can produce real improvements in student engagement, learning, persistence, and academic attainment.



WHAT MATTERS MOST

Focused, sustained efforts

(Achieving the Dream!)



WHAT MATTERS MOST

#8 Student Engagement *By Design*

- **Richland College/San Antonio**
- **Sinclair Community College**
- **Patrick Henry/Northwest Vista**
- **Kingsborough/Skagit**
- **All Florida Community Colleges**



WHAT MATTERS MOST

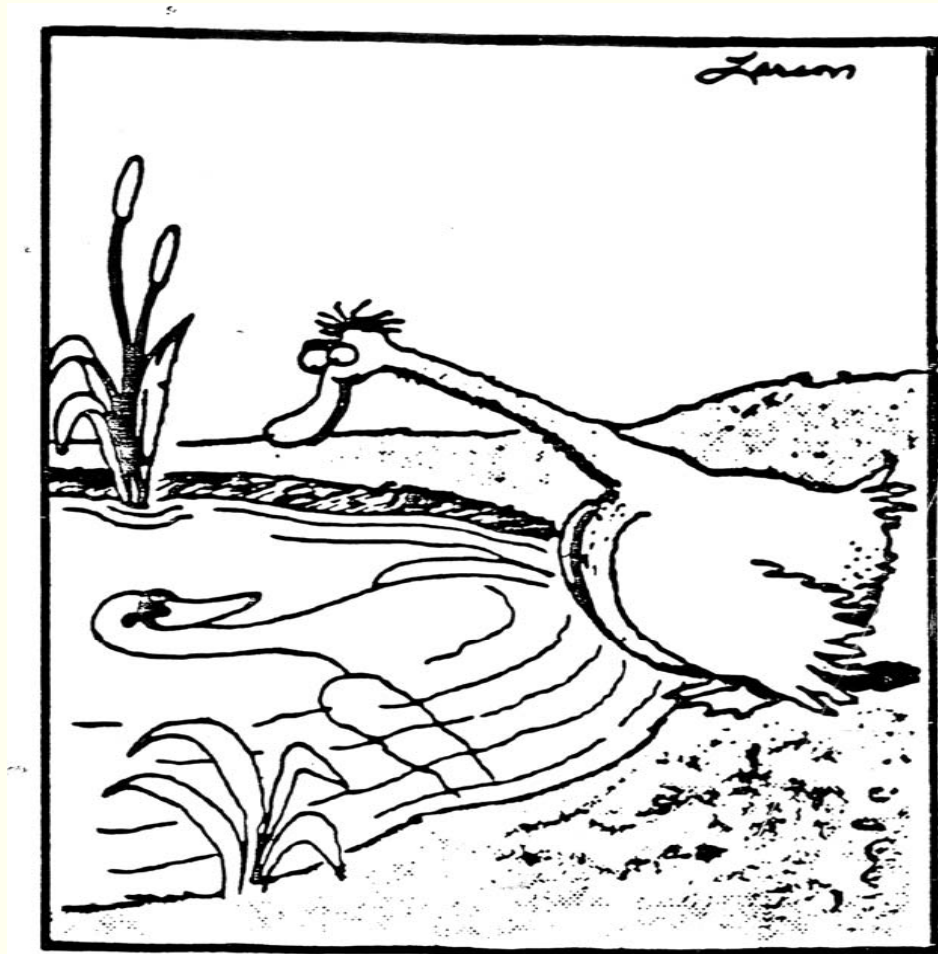
#9 Building a Culture of Evidence

“Take nothing on its looks; take everything on evidence. There’s no better rule.”

**— Charles Dickens (1812 – 1870)
*Great Expectations***



The Courage to See...





***CCFSSE* Findings**

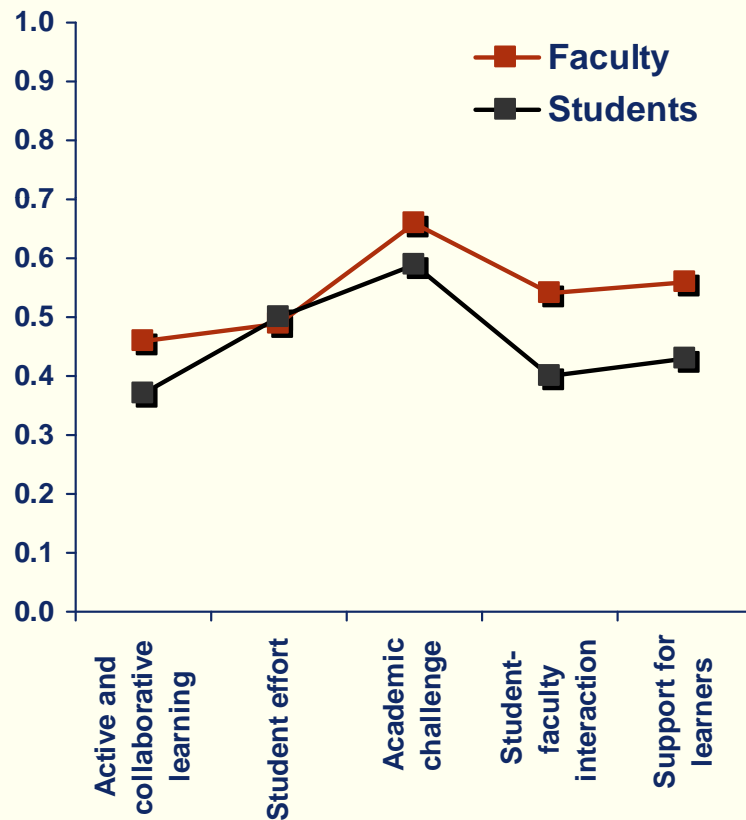
CCFSSE:

- **Elicits information from faculty about their teaching practices, the ways they spend their professional time both in and out of class, and their perceptions regarding students' educational experiences**
- **Is aligned with *CCSSE* to allow colleges to contrast student and faculty perceptions**



A Tale of Two Perspectives

Effective Educational Practices: Student and Faculty Responses



Source: 2009CCSSE and CCFSSSE Cohort data.



A Tale of Two Perspectives

Effective Educational Practices: Student and Faculty Responses

Faculty report giving prompt feedback:

93% often/very often

Students report receiving prompt feedback:

44% often/very often

Source: 2009 CCSSE and CCFSSSE Cohort data.



WHAT MATTERS MOST

#10

Resisting the Average/

Reaching for Excellence



The Inarguable Fundamentals

- 1. The center of community college work is student learning, persistence, and success.**
- 2. We can't get better at what we're not willing to look at.**
- 3. Every program, every service, every academic policy, every college is perfectly designed to achieve the exact outcome it currently produces.**



The Inarguable Fundamentals

- 4. If nothing changes, nothing changes.**
- 5. Neither organizations nor individuals are good at accomplishing things they never actually decided to do.**



A QUESTION FOR STUDENTS ... AND OURSELVES

“This college is like a _____”

*Comments?
Questions?*





Discussion Questions

What is a survey finding that surprises you or makes you curious? What else would you like to know to more fully understand the student experience behind this finding?

Identify a finding that you find troubling – but also actionable. What might be an effective improvement strategy? Is the strategy something that can be undertaken by individuals, or does it require collaborative effort among faculty and/or staff?



Discussion Questions

What can you as an individual do next Monday (AT NO COST) to more effectively engage students?

What are three student engagement strategies that you would like the college to take on as institutional priorities?

Commitment: I will....