

## CETL Lunch February 28, 2008: **Our Millennial Students**

Clark is a regular participant in NSSE (the National Survey Engagement), in which our first and fourth year students report on the frequency of their engagement in academic and cocurricular activities known to result in learning. In fall 2007, Clark participated in the first BCSSE (the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement), in which first year students reported on their high school experiences and expectations of college. Today we will review Clark's BCSSE report to help us understand who our students are, how their expectations and ours may (or may not) be consistent, and how we can use what we learn to help them learn.

### BCSSE 2007 Facts

"The Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement collects data about entering college students' high school academic and co-curricular experiences, as well as their expectations for participating in educationally purposeful activities during the first college year. BCSSE administration usually takes place prior to start of fall classes and is designed to be paired with a NSSE administration at the end of the first college year, providing an in-depth understanding of first-year student engagement on your campus." BCSSE web site (<http://bcsse.iub.edu> )

- 122 colleges and universities in 34 states and 4 Canadian institutions participated in the first (2007) administration
- Entering first-year class size at these institutions ranged from 120 to over 7000
- Approximately one third of participating US BCSSE institutions are private.
- A large majority of BCSSE schools are either baccalaureate (35%) or master's (44%).
- BCSSE results are intended to be paired with NSSE, administered at the end of the first year. We will receive a report in August that compares our BCSSE and NSSE results.
- Clark administered BCSSE in paper version during orientation for the first time in fall 2007 to first year students. Because the survey was administered by PAs to their orientation groups, our response rate was over 90%.

### What We're Doing Today:

- The packets you have contain:
  - frequencies of responses from Clark first year students to individual BCSSE items (white paper); if you want to see frequency responses from other institutional types, I have printouts you can borrow.
  - mean scores from Clark, private baccalaureates, private doctoral, and all BCSSE schools on scales <sup>1</sup>of high school academic engagement, expected first year academic engagement, academic persistence, academic preparation, and importance of campus environment (yellow paper).
- At your table, pick one of the following three areas on which to focus. Don't forget to look at both the frequency report and the mean scale scores.
  - pp 1-9, and pp 19-20—demographics and high school activities
  - pp 9-14—expectations of first year of college
  - pp 14-18—anticipated challenges
- Suggested questions to consider (pick a few, or formulate your own):
  - What responses seem characteristic of millennial students as you perceive them?
  - What surprises you?
  - How do the expectations of our first year students of their college experience differ from yours?
  - In what ways are our first year students prepared (or not) for college?
  - What do you take away from these results that might change the way in which you interact with students?
- One person in your group should be prepared with a brief report of your discussion.

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<sup>1</sup> Scales are constructed from collections of individual questions; the specific questions included in each scale are listed on the second page of the yellow handout.