




## Breaking Down the Barriers to Student Engagement:


### Putting the NSSE Family of Surveys to Work for Your Institution

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## Setting the stage

- Do you consider yourself a/an:
  - Experienced NSSE user
  - New NSSE user
  - Doing NSSE right now
  - Considering NSSE in the future
  - What's NSSE?
  - Work for NSSE
  - Curse NSSE's name




## Overview

- This session is a...
  - Question and answer session.
  - Collegial session.
  - Review of ISU's practices.
  - Dialog in surveying and data use.
  - Basic overview of NSSE



## Overview

- This session is not a...
  - Sales pitch for NSSE or a single methodology.
  - "Best practice" review.
  - Statistical or findings presentation.
  - Lecture.



## About NSSE

- Indiana University Bloomington Center for Postsecondary Research
- Around since 2000; 70 pilots in 1999.
- 774 institutions participating right now!
- Strong theoretical background



## NSSE Instrument

- 85 items on academic and social experiences in college
- Available consortium for additional questions.
- First year and Senior students
- Web or Paper administrations
- NSSE does much of the work for you!

• See: [http://nsse.iub.edu/html/survey\\_instruments\\_2008.cfm](http://nsse.iub.edu/html/survey_instruments_2008.cfm)




## Reports

- 5 Benchmark Reports
- Mean Comparison reports between
  - All NSSE participants
  - Carnegie Classification
  - Consortium or select institutions
- Respondent and Frequency reports
- Top 50% and Top 10% Report
- Executive Summary Report




## Useful Websites

- Homepage  
<http://nsse.iub.edu/index.cfm>
- Conceptual Framework  
[http://nsse.iub.edu/pdf/conceptual\\_framework\\_2003.pdf](http://nsse.iub.edu/pdf/conceptual_framework_2003.pdf)
- Publications and Presentations  
<http://nsse.iub.edu/html/pubs.cfm?action=&viewwhat=Journal%20Article,Book%20Chapter,Report,Research%20Paper>
- Incentives  
<http://nsse.iub.edu/html/tips.cfm?printview=yes>
- Researchers – Psychometrics and SPSS Syntax  
<http://nsse.iub.edu/html/researchers.cfm>




## FSSE and BCSSE

- Complimentary surveys asked to faculty and beginning students.
- BCSSE allows for a longitudinal approach
- FSSE allows for a gap analysis approach
- Example




## Questions?




## Background


- Personal
- Institutional



## ISU's Approach

- NSSE administered every year from 2000-2005.
- Administered FSSE and BCSSE in 2006






## Questions I Could Not Answer

- How has engagement made a difference in academic achievement, satisfaction, retention, etc?
- How has engagement changed in the past 3 years?
- Are our Seniors more engaged than our First year students and does this mean we've added to their collegiate experience?
- How engaged are our students and are these experiences appropriate?




## How we responded

- Implemented a Vision
- Referred to the data
  - Raising opinion
  - Shelving for different data
- Balanced theory and practice
  - More than a conversation piece
- Ramped up local analyses
- Provided to Constituents
- Solutions based approach





## Questions?




## Seven Tips or Shifts

- 1) Have A vision.
- 2) Propose a solution, not just a problem.
- 3) Rely on the work NSSE has already done.
- 4) Know thy statistics.
- 5) Manage your data constantly.
- 6) Work smarter, not harder.
- 7) Share and support.




## Have a Vision

- Solutions Based Approach
  - Consider students, colleges, faculty, student affairs, HR.
  - Offer as a piece of assessment planning or program review.
  - No more, "The average ISU student" presentations.
  - No problem is raised without hypotheses about a solution.




## More on Vision

- What are espoused and actual values of your institution and does NSSE match them?
- Realize NSSE is not the end all be all.
- Does your vision for NSSE fit into the office, division, and institutional mission and planning?
  - More than just matching questions to values.
  - Match local research to values.




## Solutions, not Problems

- Conversations are a great start but arte not the end result
- What is done with data?
- Expanding your Office's mission.
- How does your time spent with NSSE result in an improved institution?
- Example.




## Rely on NSSE's Work

- Grant-funded work
  - Connecting the Dots
- Syntax
- NSSE Teams
- Literature
- Good advice
- Example




## Know thy Statistics

- Descriptive Statistics and Frequencies
- t-Test
  - Significance and effect size
- Reliability
  - Chronbach's Alpha, Guttman Scaling, Split Halves
- Correlations
- Forms of Regression
  - Limitations and Likelihoods




## Advanced Stats

- ANOVA and MANOVA
- Discriminate Analysis
- Structural Equation Modeling and Path Analysis



## Some Stats You Can Do

- Drivers Report from Benchmarks
  - Use effect size and grand frequency tables to see where your students are most different from others.
- Group Comparisons
- Trend Analyses
  - Merge data files and then do t-Test to chart means over time
  - Connect to other sources of data.



## Examples

NSSE ADP questions

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Alumni Survey Civic Engagement Constructs

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Discussions and programs on long-term perceived value added



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- Manage your Data**
- Don't "deal" with data. Manage it.
    - Name files appropriately
    - Get to know the data variables and labels
    - Timed Analyses
      - Merge files
      - Include administration year, GPA, identifier, or whatever is important for grouping.
    - Save and backup syntax and data files.
  - Short list of identifiers and timelines for routine imports


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- Work smarter, not harder**
- How will you use this data for change?
  - Protect time for reflection and additional, specific analyses.
  - Involve faculty and colleagues.
  - Pick no more than 3 evidence-based improvements to focus on.
  - Don't move on from something until it is time.

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- Share and Support**
- Talk with colleagues about findings.
    - Statistics when appropriate.
  - Meetings with reports.
  - Short reports or executive summaries.
  - Invite faculty to participate early.
  - Consider dissemination plans appropriate to your institution.



## Basic Dissemination

- Conversational
  - Newsletters and e-mails
  - Reports
- Action oriented
  - Multiple meetings with decision groups or office leadership
  - Planning, review processes and initiatives
  - Faculty development stemming from data
- Others?



## Questions



## Contact

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