



The Community College Survey of Student Engagement Honors Consortium Project

****Open Call for Participation in the 2020 CCSSE Honors Consortium****

At this time, we are pleased to announce a call for interested parties at two-year degree institutions to signal their interest to join the Honors Consortium for the spring 2020 administration of the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). Usually, college leadership at the level of the provost, vice-president for academic affairs, or those in offices of institutional research and reporting make the decision to participate in CCSSE. Thus, honors directors who are interested in having their institution participate likely will need to consult with those leaders about the possibility of joining the CCSSE Honors Consortium.

A description of this project is presented herein, and key decision criteria that you may want to consider during on-campus consultations are included in the [checklist below](#).

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE, often pronounced Sessie) is a survey mostly administered to returning community college students and asks questions that evaluate the quality of institutional practices and student behaviors that are positively correlated with student learning and retention. The survey asks students about their college experiences — how they spend their time; what they feel they have gained from their classes; how they assess their relationships and interactions with faculty, counselors, and peers; what kinds of work they are challenged to do; how the college supports their learning; and so on.

Each year, the Center for Community College Student Engagement selects a "special-focus" topic and develops new item sets that enable colleges to conduct an in-depth exploration of key issues related to improved student engagement and student success. In 2018, the special focus item included questions regarding academic mindset while the 2019 special focus items ask about guided pathways.

Community colleges usually participate in the survey according to set patterns, typically every two years, and institutions are on differing schedules. Thus, we hope to offer the CCSSE Honors Consortium over the course of three years: 2020, 2021, and 2022. Institutions interested in participating should indicate the CCSSE cycle they are on and which years they will be able to participate. Further, the CCSSE is administered as a paper-and-pencil survey because this method provides robust data, and the response rate ranges from 75 to 80 percent of target.

THE CCSSE-NCHC HONORS CONSORTIUM PROJECT

The Center for Community College Student Engagement ([Center for Community College Student Engagement Overview](#)) offers the opportunity for participating institutions to join into cooperative CCSSE consortia for a small fee added to the regular CCSSE cost. The CCSSE consortium option allows community college systems and already-established consortia to join together for purposes that allow community colleges to compare their own CCSSE summaries to aggregated summaries of groups to which they belong.

The NCHC Research Committee has been working with the Center for Community College Student Engagement to organize an Honors Consortium of interested two-year degree institutions for the spring

2020 administration of CCSSE. The Center defines consortia as three or more colleges in a multi-college district, system, or state, or of colleges with common interests and the willingness to share data. Members receive reports comparing their results to those of other colleges. As part of this effort, a special working group of the Research Committee has been charged to develop a strategy most feasible for interested parties. The NCHC-CCSSE consortium will utilize a strategy of oversampling honors sections to elicit specific data to form a critical mass of community college honors students.

Oversampling enables colleges to survey students not selected as part of the random sample and is only available to colleges participating in the regular survey administration.

After the college contact consults with the Center research team, the Center pulls the targeted sample of course sections (up to a 100% sample) from the college's course master data file (CMDf); creates class survey packets; ships packets to the college; scans and cleans the data from returned surveys; and includes the oversample responses in the college's raw data file. Course-level information for oversample responses is included in the data file.

Beyond the student engagement questions, CCSSE also collects data on a variety of demographic items that would facilitate analyses of diversity for honors vis-a-vis non-honors students, and numerous other items exist that may be of additional interest to honors staff. Those interested in exploring the full range of items in the standard CCSSE survey form can find a sample of the most recent survey at the following link:

https://www.ccsse.org/refresh/CCSSE_Refresh_Sample.pdf

COST AND GRANT SUPPORT

The Center for Community College Student Engagement has listed a base fee of \$300 for oversampling, plus \$2 per additional survey **provided by the Center**, NOT the number of completed surveys returned, for each institution participating in the Consortium. Please note that we are in the process of requesting a budget to create a small pool of funds available for grants to help offset the cost of participation for those institutions committed to joining the Consortium and willing to sign the CCSSE data sharing agreement. However, we will likely NOT know about grant monies until after the institutional commitment deadline. If NCHC does approve the grant request, decisions about any grant funds will be based on a combination of (1) the number of grant requests; (2) the sizes of those requests; and (3) maximizing institutional diversity within the Consortium (e.g., institution size, Carnegie classification, private vs. public control, etc.). Honors program contacts should work to secure commitments from campus stakeholders and submit a signed CCSSE data sharing agreement by **August 23, 2019** in order to be considered for any possible NCHC grant funds.

CONTACT

Interested parties with questions about the project or those wishing to signal their intention to join the CCSSE Honors Consortium may direct correspondence to consortium coordinator, Dr. Jane Honeycutt, chair of the NCHC CCSSE Honors Consortium Working Group (email: jbhoneycutt@northeaststate.edu). Consortium members should be current institutional members of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

The final list of consortium participants will need to be submitted to the Center for Community College Student Engagement by October 31, 2019. All agreements with relevant parties on campus will need to be secured by honors program representatives by early November 2019 in order to participate in the

Consortium. Please note that the Center registration deadline for consortia is November 16, 2019. The sooner, the better that you communicate your intentions to the consortium coordinator.

Checklist for Honors Directors Interested in Having their Institutions Join the CCSSE Consortium

- _____ (1) Does your institution regularly participate in the Community College Survey of Student Engagement, and if so, does your institution plan to participate in the spring 2020 administration of CCSSE? *(You may be able to find the answer to the first part of this question by searching the CCSSE participating institution search page at <http://www.ccsse.org/aboutccsse/colleges.cfm>)*
- _____ (2) Is your institution already committed to another CCSSE consortium (e.g., as part of a state community college system that might preclude joining the CCSSE Honors Consortium)?
- _____ (3) Is your honors program or your institution administration able and willing to pay the additional \$300 fee, and \$2 fee per additional survey needed to oversample your honors population? *Note that NCHC may have a small pool of funds available for grants to help offset the cost of participation for those institutions for those institutions committed to joining the CCSSE Honors Consortium and willing to sign the data sharing agreement; however, we likely will NOT know about grant monies until after the institutional commitment deadline).*
- _____ (4) Are you willing to work with your office of institutional research and reporting (and are they willing to work with you) to provide them with a list of your honors course sections for inclusion as an “optional group variable” in your institution’s CCSSE Course Master Data File (CMDF)?

For those interested in joining the CCSSE Honors Consortium, please contact consortium coordinator **Dr. Jane Honeycutt**, chair of the Research Committee Community College Honors Consortium Working Group (e-mail: jbhoneycutt@northeaststate.edu)

CCSSE Honors Consortium Working Group

Amanda Bennett, Chattanooga State Community College
Andrew Cognard-Black, St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Jane Honeycutt, Northeast State Community College
Irene Petten, Columbus State Community College
Jill Swarner, North Central Texas College
Michaela Tomova, South Florida State College
Eddie Weller, San Jacinto College District