Announcing Project DEEP

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) announce the DEEP project. With support from Lumina Foundation for Education and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College, this initiative examines the everyday workings of a variety of educationally effective colleges and universities to learn what they do to promote student success. The effort is the first in a series of activities undertaken by the NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice to respond to national concerns about improving the success rates of undergraduate students.

Documenting Effective Educational Practice

The Project DEEP research team is using case study methods to look closely at about 20 colleges and universities with higher-than-predicted graduation rates and better-than-predicted scores on the five NSSE national benchmarks of effective educational practice: level of academic challenge; active and collaborative learning; student interaction with faculty members; enriching educational experiences; and supportive campus environment.

Sharing success stories from Project DEEP will provide institutions with ways to transform their student engagement results into action plans to promote student success.

Developing Effective Improvement Strategies

Project DEEP is helping institutions identify strategies and tactics for using their student engagement information to improve educational practice and increase levels of student success through the following initiatives:

- National roundtables to identify important objectives for and obstacles to profitable institutional use of student engagement information.
- Campus consortia work at the AAHE Summer Academy to develop action plans for institutional improvement and increased student success based on NSSE results.

Learning from Project DEEP

Project DEEP is documenting programs, policies and practices that successfully engage students in productive learning activities and widely disseminate the findings through:

- Monographs summarizing the practices that characterize educationally effective colleges and universities.
- Policy briefs prepared for higher education administrators and policy makers, legislators, accreditors, and the media.
- Roundtable reports outlining themes of importance to constituency groups.
- Workshops and presentations at national and regional meetings.

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A Partnership Between:

National Survey of Student Engagement  
The College Student Report  

AAHE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  

LUMINA  
FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION  

CENTER OF INQUIRY IN THE  
Liberal Arts  
AT WABASH COLLEGE