

Center Welcomes Two New Board Members

What are you looking forward to the most about partnering with the Center for Community College Student Engagement as a member of its Board?



Dr. Marcia J. Ballinger

President
Lorain County Community College (OH)

“Lorain County Community College has benefited greatly over the past decade by CCCSE’s innovations that create a greater focus on student engagement, outcomes, and success. I’m deeply committed to advancing high impact practices and policies that create more equitable student success outcomes. I’m deeply honored for the opportunity to serve with colleagues who I believe represent the most innovative community colleges focused on student success and with the CCCSE team.”



Dr. Tyjaun A. Lee

President, Penn Valley Campus
Metropolitan Community College (MO)

“I am excited to serve on the CCCSE National Advisory Board because I am able to provide the leadership with firsthand knowledge and deep insight into being the first in my family to seek higher education; this is critically important given what our students currently are experiencing and will experience in the coming years. I look forward to being a part of helping the organization advance its mission and vision.”

See all [members](#)

COVID-19 Report Embargoed Release

On March 25, the Center will release a new report, [The Impact of COVID-19 on Entering Students in Community Colleges](#).

The survey findings were collected from entering students across 38 colleges during the fall of 2020. While most surveyed students’ plans about the college they attended, whether they attended part-time or full-time, and their chosen pathway of study did not change as a result of the pandemic, the data suggest that COVID-19 did create challenges for the most vulnerable students.

This project was generously funded by the Trellis Foundation.



A Tale of Two Surveys: Learning and Growing With Online Administrations

The COVID-19 pandemic has compelled community colleges across the nation to find creative ways to serve their students. To allow colleges the opportunity to continue to gather crucial engagement data in these unique times, the Center has also had to learn, adapt, and innovate. The 2020 administration of *SENSE* was relatively small, allowing Center liaisons the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with college staff to explore the best ways to promote and distribute the survey. This included countless one-on-one meetings by Zoom and telephone, as well as prompt assistance via email. The Center also created several documents to guide colleges through the administration, including a procedure guide, tips for survey promotion, and communication templates and graphics.

The Center has applied lessons learned from *SENSE* 2020 to the much larger *CCSSE* 2021 administration. For example, one of the biggest challenges for colleges administering *SENSE* was promoting a survey that required each student to have a unique access code generated by the Center. For *CCSSE*, colleges are able to submit their own access codes (typically something known to students like a college email address or username), allowing much greater flexibility with survey promotions. To adapt to the scale of the *CCSSE* administration, the Center has been very intentional in creating a systematic support structure, including five well-attended webinars focused on the online survey process both before and during the administration, a tool that allows colleges to monitor response counts, and frequent administration updates. The Center has also created additional documents to support survey promotion efforts, like a guide on partnering with faculty to help boost student participation.

SENSE 2020 Participation

Thirty-nine* colleges administered *SENSE* in fall of 2020. More colleges were originally registered, but withdrew from the administration over the course of the summer, largely due to reasons related to the pandemic.

Modality

- » 33 colleges conducted the administration online, collecting 4,385 usable surveys, with an average response rate** of 11% (range: <1% to 32%)
- » 6 colleges conducted the administration on paper, collecting 822 usable surveys, with an average response rate** of 19% (range: 2% to 29%)

Additional Items

- » 38 colleges administered the free [COVID-19 Impact](#) 12-item special-focus module, with 5,193 respondents
- » All 39 colleges also administered the free [Guided Pathways](#) module as their secondary module
- » One college chose to administer a fee-based [standard module](#) instead of the COVID-19 module

*The number of *SENSE* 2020 colleges shown [here](#) is 38 because one college had to drop out of the administration but had already collected responses that are included in the national data set.

**These response rates are calculated based on usable surveys. The total number of surveys returned was higher than reflected in these response rates due to some surveys not being included in the analyses because they were not valid. There are several criteria based on which a respondent's survey can be classified as not valid. Examples include not answering the item about their enrollment status, having taken the survey previously in the term, and straight-lining.

CCSSE 2021 Participation

Currently, 287 colleges are registered to participate this spring in *CCSSE* 2021. Despite setbacks presented by the pandemic, this marks an increase in participation over the last several years: 263 colleges participated in 2018 and 237 in 2019. Only 23 colleges completed *CCSSE* 2020, but 2021's administration includes 106 colleges that returned after having to withdraw from the 2020 administration and another seven that did complete 2020.

Modality

- » 245 colleges have confirmed online administration
- » 26 colleges have indicated intention to administer on paper
- » 16 colleges remain undecided

Additional Items

- » The [Students in Need items](#) have been received with great enthusiasm—204 colleges will administer them free of charge this spring
- » 56 colleges will administer [custom items](#), 21 will administer other [standard item sets](#), and 6 are undecided or declined to administer additional items

CCFSSE

- » 72 colleges are administering the faculty survey

Race/Ethnicity Pilot Survey

- » To be administered April 15 through June 15
- » Part of the Center's [We Stand Committed](#) pledge
- » Currently, 100 colleges are registered to participate in the [Race/Ethnicity Pilot Survey](#)
- » There is an option to include [additional items in the faculty survey](#) focused on Race/Ethnicity

Presentations & Meetings

Below is a list of all virtual attendances and presentations by Center staff during the past few months.

January 2021

- » Daytona State College Presentation – *You: The Superhero Promise*
- » American Association of Colleges & Universities Virtual Annual Meeting – *Strengthening Guided Pathways and Career Success by Ensuring Students are Learning*
- » Kansas State University Doctoral Students Presentation – *You: The Superhero in the Student Success Story*

February 2021

- » Association of Colleges and Universities Housing Officers International State of the Profession – *Student Engagement in a New Frontier: CCSSE COVID-19 Survey Data Points*
- » *The Intersection of Working and Learning* Report Webinar, featuring Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College ([view the webinar here](#); and see [Media Highlights below for related article](#))
- » Ohio Student Success Leadership Institute – *Teaching and Learning Within a Guided Pathways Framework*
- » DREAM Conference – *Early Impacts of COVID-19 on the Community College Experience*
- » American Association of Colleges & Universities Guided Pathways February Project Meeting – *Center for Community College Student Engagement's Evaluation Project Update*
- » National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students Conference – *First Generation Students: Factors Predicting Intent to Transfer*
- » American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Community College Institute – *How to Lead Community Colleges in Uncertain Times*

March 2021

- » California Guided Pathways 2.0 Webinar Series – *Creating a Sense of Belonging & Connection with Metamajors*
- » Laramie County Community College Presentation – *Laramie County Community College: Highlights of Student Engagement Data*
- » Association for the Program of Campus Activities Advisors Virtual Webinar – *Designed Student Engagement: Why It Matters*
- » University of Texas Educational Leadership and Policy Community College Graduate Course – *Academic Mindset: Capitalizing on the Relationship Between Mindset and Student Success*
- » North Carolina Student Success Center Guided Pathways to Success 100 Series – *Using Assessment and Faculty Engagement to Prepare for the Next Step (3/23)*
- » Harvard Institutes for Higher Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education – *Systems of Oppression in Higher Education (3/29)*

Research Affiliates Sign On

Dr. Mike Bohlig, the Center's Assistant Director of Research, presented a webinar on November 11, 2020, hosted by the Council for the Study of Community Colleges. Since the webinar, 16 researchers have joined the [Research Affiliate Program](#). This initiative seeks to advance research on community college student experiences by increasing access to the largest data set of its kind and to enhance the visibility of affiliates' research on community colleges and community college students.

So far, four of the affiliates have received data sets, and Mike is currently working with two of them on a manuscript for publication. Three other affiliates have requested data sets, and the Center research team is in the process of preparing them.

Media Highlights

[“In Challenging Times, Relationships Keep Students Engaged in College Learning”](#)

by

Courtney Adkins and Linda L. García

originally appeared on EdSurge
on December 24, 2020

[“Community College Enrollment Plunges During COVID-19 Pandemic”](#)

Teen Vogue, January 27, 2021

[“Virtual Panel Explores Findings from Community College Student Engagement Report”](#)

Diverse: Issues in Higher Education,
February 3, 2021

See all [Featured Articles](#) and more instances of the [Center in the News](#)

The Latest Updates on Center Grant Projects

New Mexico Junior College Virtual Focus Groups

Update: We have conducted three virtual focus groups with students and one virtual focus group with faculty. The qualitative data will be used in the college's online teaching and learning professional development.

\$40,000
New Mexico Higher Education Department
Nov 1, 2020–Jul 30, 2021

Objective: To create video clips edited into thematic montages and a college report by hosting virtual focus groups with college students, dual credit high school students, college faculty, and high school faculty.

Students in Need in Community Colleges

Update: We have finalized dates for the fall 2021 student interviews, with the three colleges located in California, Michigan, and Florida. We will conduct 16 interviews at each of the three colleges, for a total of 48 student interviews. The Center will feature findings in a fall 2022 national report.

\$285,228
ECMC Foundation & The Kresge Foundation
Sep 5, 2019–Sep 30, 2022

Objective: To explore on a national level food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness of community college students.

[See more](#)

Listen to Me: I Have Something Important to Say

Update: We have finalized the three Texas colleges and dates for the four focus group visits (fall 2021/spring 2022)

\$204,170
Greater Texas Foundation
Jan 1, 2020–Aug 31, 2022

Objective: To hear from students about challenges in their early community college experience that may lead to attrition.

[See more](#)

Extended Funding: Ensure Students Are Learning

Update: We will interview all 20 AAC&U Guided Pathways colleges and will create a six-to eight-page research article by June 14, 2021.

\$125,000
AAC&U
Apr 1, 2019–Jun 14, 2021

Objective: To build institutional capacity and develop resources that will help institutions strengthen their efforts to ensure students are learning, as part of the Guided Pathways Framework.

Ongoing and past grant projects are outlined on our [website](#) and in the [previous briefings](#).

Check Your Calendars! National Advisory Board Annual Meeting

September 23, 2021
2:00–4:00 p.m. CT
Via Zoom

All Board members should have previously received a calendar invitation to save the date. Please email benchouia@cccse.org if you do not have this time blocked out on your calendar. A Zoom link and more information will be sent later in the summer.