

September 2022

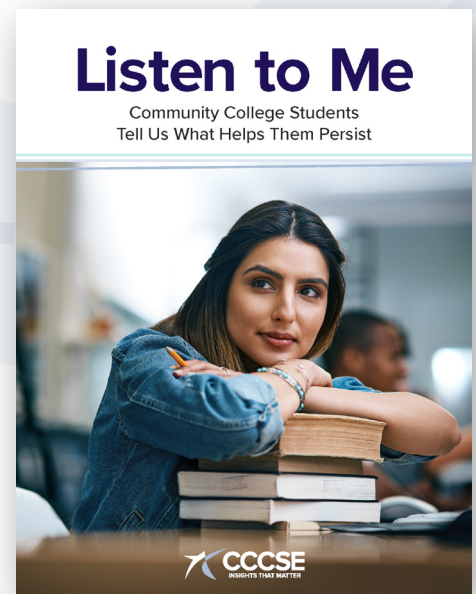
Preview of Special Report

You may remember the story of James from the mid-2000s. The [video](#), which has been shared at countless conferences and college workshops, chronicles a student's first semester as he moves from excitement to boredom to a sense of resignation that school is just not for him. The lasting impact of this tale eventually gave way to CCCSE's [Listen to Me: I Have Something Important to Say project](#), launched in 2020 and funded by the Greater Texas Foundation. The grant allowed CCCSE to conduct longitudinal focus groups exploring attrition and retention among entering students in community colleges through the guided pathways framework. The findings will be officially released on September 29 in the form of a special report, [Listen to Me: Community College Students Tell Us What Helps Them Persist](#).

Key takeaways from the focus groups, which took place at three Texas community colleges three times in fall 2021 and once in early spring 2022, include the following:

- » first experiences on campus can feel confusing and terrifying
- » many students desired more (clear) information about front door processes
- » having an academic plan in place and knowing what to take the next term was not consistent across participants
- » some instructors do not provide enough engagement opportunities
- » student success courses, study groups, and tutoring made a big impact

To read more about the report in detail, check out the [news release](#).



Thank You for Serving on the Board!

CCCSE would like to thank these three outstanding individuals for their leadership and support throughout their term and beyond. They will be celebrated once more at the annual meeting. See [all members](#).

Check your calendars!

The board meeting is Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 1:00–2:30 p.m. CT, via Zoom. [Questions?](#)



Cathy Bio
Director of Student Success
University of Hawaii Community
College System Office



Dr. Sunita V. Cooke
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta Community
College District (CA)



Dr. Jane A. Karas
President
Flathead Valley Community
College (MT)

Mental Health and Well-Being Items Are Nearly Finalized

In June's quarterly briefing, CCCSE announced a new grant from The Kresge Foundation that will investigate mental health and well-being among community college students. This will be done through special item sets administered concurrently with the 2023 spring and fall surveys. Recruitment efforts for *CCSSE* 2023 include communications to colleges about the forthcoming items, which we plan to publicize in the coming weeks. The [project](#) will also include a series of one-on-one interviews next year. The results from the survey items and from the interviews will be released in a national report scheduled for 2024.



Advisory Panel

- » **Dr. Sara Abelson**, Senior Director, The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, Temple University
- » **Dr. Alison Brown**, Coordinator, Center for Wellness & Wellbeing, Santa Monica College (CA)
- » **Dr. Tia Dole**, Executive Director, The Steve Fund
- » **Tiffany Gusbeth**, Vice President, Student Success Services, American Indian College Fund
- » **Dr. Darryl Ann Lai Fang**, Director of Strategy Execution, UNCF
- » **Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart**, President, Amarillo College (TX)
- » **Markie Pasternack**, Senior Manager, Higher Education, Active Minds
- » **Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner**, President and CEO, Phi Theta Kappa



The latest issue of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* features CCCSE at 20 years.

In the [article](#), Associate Director of Publications Courtney Adkins and Executive Director Linda García echo the [themes](#) highlighted in this past year's [anniversary celebration](#) and look ahead to new endeavors (see rest of this briefing page).

Quick Update on Newest Surveys



With 160 colleges having participated in the 2021 and 2022 pilots and growing interest and demand from the field, CCCSE is poised to offer the [Race/Ethnicity Survey](#) (R/E Survey) as a fee-based add-on to the student surveys starting in 2023. Colleges will have the flexibility to choose one of three administration windows. With [CCSSE 2023](#), a college can administer R/E that same spring along with *CCSSE* or delay the administration until fall 2023 or spring 2024.



This survey, which is part of a [project](#) funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, after having gone through a review process by an [advisory panel](#) is now undergoing the final stage of development. CCCSE researchers are currently conducting cognitive interviews with students at a few of the [19 participating institutions](#), where the pilot will take place later this fall.

Engagement With the Field

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

July 2022

- » Washington State College Presidents and Chancellors Retreat — Plenary Presentation
- » George Mason University Graduate Class — Guest Lecture
- » Charles A. Dana Center Alleviating Barriers to Corequisite Implementation and Scaling — Convening Participation
- » Ohio Association of Community Colleges Workshop for Institutional Researchers — Plenary Presentation
- » National Council of State Directors of Community Colleges Summer Meeting — Session Presentation
- » National Alliance of Community & Technical Colleges Summer Conference — Participation as Board Member

August 2022

- » Big Sandy Community and Technical College (KY) — Custom CCSSE Workshop
- » Gulf Coast State College (FL) — Custom CCSSE Workshop
- » CCSSE 2022 Reporting Webinar

CCCSE named in [Kresge's Thrive Leaders Network!](#)

September 2022

- » Lamar State College Orange (TX) — Custom CCSSE Workshop
- » Ohio Association of Community Colleges Student Success Leadership Institute — Plenary Presentation
- » Ohio Association of Community Colleges Holistic Student Supports Institute — Plenary Presentation
- » Celebración de Excelencia — Recognition

CCCSE Returns to Ohio for an Encore of Focus Group Work

As an enhancement to the Transformation Enablers Pilot-Pathways Providers Project, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and Ohio Student Success Center invited CCCSE to conduct focus groups with students, faculty, and staff at three Ohio community colleges earlier this year exploring equity, classroom engagement, and career and transfer guidance. Over the past few months, Executive Director Linda García presented at three events (see schedule above) in support of pathways scaling and CCCSE was invited back to conduct another set of focus groups at three other colleges.

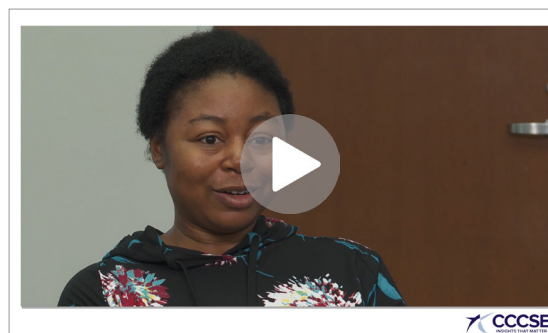
Spring 2022 (Original Visits)

April 25 — Cuyahoga Community College
April 26 — Northwest State Community College
April 27 — Owens Community College

Fall 2022 (Round 2 Visits)

September 6 — Central Ohio Technical College
September 7 — Lorain County Community College
September 8 — Zane State College

Sample Video Clip



“ This college, by far, has offered the most services I've ever seen for career guidance and help. ... A lot of professionals that I've met would rather hire a student from here than a person with maybe four years' experience because they know that they're good and they can be molded to what's needed. ”

— Student