

Welcome to Teaching + Learning Tuesdays

June 20, 2017 | 2:30PM

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Teaching + Learning Tuesday

SCTCS
plugged  IN
REBOOT. REDEFINE. RECONNECT.

Student Activities in the Community College: A South Carolina Case Study

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About the Researchers



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Background/Purpose of Study

- ◆ Integration between Academic and Student Affairs in the community college
- ◆ Lack of literature on student life, student activities, and other beyond-the-classroom topics in the community college
- ◆ Colleges seeking best practices and proven strategies that aid in student success
- ◆ Research funded through a grant from the National Association of Campus Activities (NACA)

Literature Review

- ◆ Astin's Theory of Student Involvement (1984)
 - ◆ Student involvement is the quantity and quality of physical and psychological energy that the student devotes to the academic experience
 - ◆ Limitation: based on four-year, residential institutions
- ◆ Tinto's Model of Student Departure (1975, 1993)
 - ◆ Explores the academic and social integration of college students at four-year institutions
 - ◆ Incongruence between academic and social integration is one of the reasons students leave college
 - ◆ One of the most widely used frameworks for examining student persistence in higher education
 - ◆ Limitation: scholars have tested the framework on community colleges students with mixed results, e.g. D'Amico, Dika, Elling, Algozzine, & Ginn, 2014; Deil-Amen, 2011; Karp, Hughes, & O'Gara, 2010

So, what is the best way to explore this
topic in the SCTCS?

SCTCS Student Leadership Conference (SLC)

- ◆ Annual conference organized by Student Life Peer Group
 - ◆ Colleges bring current and aspiring student leaders
 - ◆ Keynote speaker and breakout sessions
 - ◆ Professional development for advisors (e.g. Safe Zone)
 - ◆ Hosted by a different college each year



Emerging Leaders
Student Leadership Conference



Research Questions

- ◆ What student development themes matter most to students?
- ◆ What is the overall impact of a system-wide approach to student engagement activities in the community college setting?
- ~~◆ How does a system-level peer group structure impact the development and implementation of student engagement activities?~~
- ~~◆ How do system-wide student engagement activities promote student engagement on individual campuses?~~
- ~~◆ What are the limitations of system-wide student engagement activities?~~

Methodology

Case Study: 2016 Student Leadership Conference

Conference Evaluation Survey

- ◆ 126 attendees, 69 survey results
- ◆ 12 colleges represented

Focus Groups

- ◆ 2 groups/ 6 to 7 participants
- ◆ ~Pseudonyms
- ◆ Lasted 55 minutes each
- ◆ Conversation recorded and transcribed in enumerated spreadsheet
- ◆ Coding
 - ◆ Want, like, friend, change, manage, new, lead, mentor, success, potential, hard, help, activity, know, tell, prepare, never, outside, nature

Results

SLC Student Attendees ($n=69$)

Table 1: SLC Student Attendees by Age

Age	n	%
Under 18	1	1.5
18-19	14	20.2
20-21	18	26.1
22-24	9	13.0
25-29	9	13.0
30-34	4	5.8
35-39	4	5.8
40-49	6	8.7
50-64	4	5.8

Table 2: SLC Student Attendees by Program Type

Program Type	n	%
Associate Degree	61	88.4
Diploma	3	4.4
Certificate	5	7.3

Table 3: SLC Student Attendees by Enrollment Status

Enrollment Status	n	%
Full-Time (12 or more credit hours)	58	84.1
Part-Time (Less than 12 credit hours)	11	15.9

What Students Think About.....

What student development themes matter most to students?

Evaluation Survey

I am interested in learning more about the following topic(s):

LEADERSHIP

Improving interpersonal skills – 71.6%
Appreciating and respecting differences in others – 52.2%
Being innovative – 50.8%
Being ethical – 41.8%

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Self-discipline – 59.7%
Better time management skills – 55.2%
Being a critical thinker – 46.3%
Test anxiety – 37.3%

WELLNESS

Managing stress – 59.7%
Managing personal finances – 49.3%
Relationship issues – 29.9%

DEVELOPING PURPOSE

Self-confidence/esteem – 61.2%
Exhibiting professionalism – 50.8%

Selections from Focus Groups

“Tell us about the types of activities that you would like to see take place on your campus.”
“How have student activities prepared you for life after graduation?”

I've become more out there now. Like I want to help with all of the events. I want to help people. I guess it's made me stronger. Like speaking up there today, oh my gosh I was so nervous, but it's helping me become a better leader. ~Bella Bell

Because I'm 60 there's a lot of things I don't want to do anyway. I'm just even trying to learn the noise coming back to school because it can be quite distracting for an elder person. ~Queen Bee

I'd like to see an outreach program for students who possibly are thinking of quitting because they can't keep up. Coming in I didn't like the mini semesters... it's a cramming process and towards the end of this eighth week they just start hitting you and if you don't know what you're doing anyway...They need someone to say to this person, You can do this. This is where you can go to get this. This is how you can do this, especially if you're Freshman... Whatever they call that thing.
~ Queen Bee

I would like to see a little bit more of stuff like groups on relationships. People are going through hard times with their relationships and need some guidance. ~Designer

We want to be civil. We want to be able to sit down at dinner or lunch and carry a conversation productively. ~ Musonah Mansour

Why Students Don't Engage

Please indicate the primary reasons that prevent you from participating in student activities and events.

- ◇ Academic obligations - 62.7%
- ◇ Work obligations - 44.8%
- ◇ Family obligations - 41.8%
- ◇ Not aware the event is taking place - 29.9%
- ◇ No one to go to the event with - 14.9%
- ◇ Other (e.g. school/classes, medical, clinical hours, not enough variety of activities) - 14.9%
- ◇ I don't want to travel back to campus - 13.4%
- ◇ Not interested - 9.0%

Logistics, Marketing & Competing Interests

Well one thing is the information is out there, but they don't put it where the students go -- which is D2L. How can your students be informed if it's not the media that they use? If your class requires you to go to D2L constantly constantly they're gonna see that information there it should be on the front page of the D2L. ~Elizabeth Walters

I really think time, scheduling, and advertisement is really an issue. Like I say, scheduling has to be very precise because certain people are in class at certain times and certain people have big breaks and leave campus. ~Tiffany Theisan

It just feels like people don't have time. Depending on the program of study, you may just not have time. Like health sciences just don't have time. We do but some people just don't have time...depending on where your clinical sites are, depending on where you're traveling from. We're the only program in the state of SC with [speciality] so, it just depends. ~Heartbeats

People are very very different. Some of them will come to school in the mornings then go to work then come home pick the children up then go to a night class...get up at 7 o'clock and go right back. And some of them will stay at school all day from 9 am to 9 pm and they'll just have all kinds of activities to do. And some of them live right across the street from the campus. They have no excuse. ~Matthew King

Mindset & Campus Culture

They also think it's a gimmick. ~Cuouoy

Some people think it's just lame and they don't want to go to it. They don't want to be at [SCTCS College]. They want to be somewhere else like a 4-year college. ~Double07

Or some people just might not be social. ~Betty Stone

I've heard people say, I didn't know we were invited to that. ~Matthew King
Now that's true. ~Tiffany Theisan



What Matters Most

What is the overall impact of a system-wide approach to student engagement activities in the community college setting?

Benefits of Engagement

In what ways has participation in student activities helped you become a better student?

- ◆ Improving interpersonal skills - 71.64%
- ◆ Self-discipline - 59.70%
- ◆ Better time management skills - 55.22%
- ◆ Appreciating and respecting differences in others - 52.24%
- ◆ Being innovative - 50.75%
- ◆ Exhibiting professionalism - 50.75%
- ◆ Being a critical thinker - 46.27%
- ◆ Being ethical - 41.79%

I didn't even know that I had this kind of ability as a leader or as a follower and now I'm seeing more and more of who I am. The fact that I'm here right now, is still pretty good. ~Matthew King

Catch up with my mess up! ~Queen Bee

SLC Takeaways

- ◆ Several SLC survey respondents indicated their main takeaway was the interactions with students from other colleges
 - ◆ “I really liked the ideas that we shared with students from the other colleges. It helped show how we can improve our events and what kind of events work best.” - *Survey Respondent*
 - ◆ “That I can improve my group and other technical college want to get involved in their groups as well” - *Survey Respondent*
 - ◆ “Learning what other technical colleges are doing” - *Survey Respondent*
 - ◆ “Learning about other colleges and how they handle student life.” - *Survey Respondent*
- ◆ 67% of SLC attendees knew their college was a part of a technical college system

In what ways would you like to see students from different colleges collaborate?

- ◇ Statewide networking events - 67.7%
- ◇ Statewide service projects - 63.2%
- ◇ Campus visits - 51.5%
- ◇ Statewide contests - 19.1%



What kinds of activities would you like to see on your campus?

I'm getting tired of a lot of media events, things that come together through social media. I want it to be more traditional, more like a picnic, or an outside come together for friends and family and coworkers to enjoy nature and really enjoy the things that are put in front of us, that we take for granted. ~Matthew King

I would actually like to take it back to elementary school if I can be honest. I miss field day! I think it's awesome to get involved and have that time of fellowship but also have a friendly competition. I would also like for technical colleges to do like a Miss and Mr State Tech. ~ Tiffany Theisan

I wanna see us have a black and white dance, but not like prom or anything like that. The college form of prom...you bring your spouse or whatever, it's open to the public. Bring them to the college and just have a night of fun. ~Desiigner

Impact as Interpreted by the Researchers

- ◆ Collective identity and system branding
- ◆ SC exposure (i.e. students experience other parts of the state; visits to other SCTCS campuses, etc.)
- ◆ Development of personal and professional networks for students
- ◆ Professional development opportunities for student affairs employees
- ◆ Opportunities for data collection

Final Thoughts

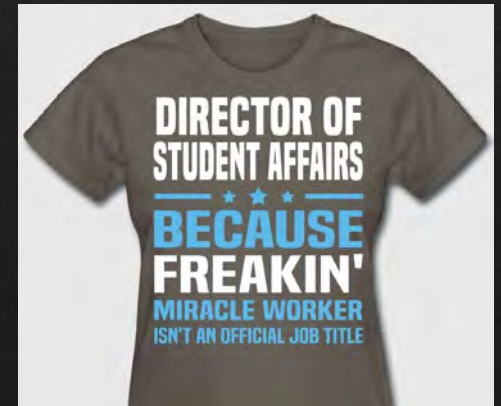
Additional Highlights

- ◇ 97.0% felt their current level of involvement will prepare them for their next goal (i.e. job placement or transfer)
- ◇ 71.6% have met their college president
- ◇ 53.7% did not know the name of their college's Title IX Coordinator
- ◇ 95.5% felt confident that they have one person at their college who can write a positive letter of recommendation on their behalf
- ◇ TRiO
- ◇ 2nd chances
 - ◇ I do think we need to have something for people who need second chances ~Desiigner

Talking to our student body, they feel like this is not a real college...if you have things that they want to do, you can get them to do the things that they need to do as well. ~Musonah Mansour

Recommendations

- Academic-Student Affairs collaborations
- Campus exchanges/ visits
- Student designed t-shirts
- Facilities - lounges, student-friendly spaces
- Time of day for events
 - Morning and early afternoon (70% before 3 pm)
 - Weekend events? - 67.2% in favor



Current Examples

◇ Alabama Community College System Day

- ◇ Held in April during National Community College month
- ◇ Event designed to celebrate faculty, staff and students
- ◇ Held at Alabama State Capitol
- ◇ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epI20afU-jU>

In South Carolina

- ◇ SCTCS Day at the State House
- ◇ CodeIT Academy
- ◇ Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)

2017 Student Leadership Conference

- ◆ October 12-13, 2017
- ◆ Tri-County Technical College, Easley Campus
- ◆ Service project will be incorporated
- ◆ Call for Proposals: July 17, 2017



Emerging Leaders
Student Leadership Conference

Acknowledgements

National Association for Campus Activities (NACA)
System Office

Student Life Peer Group

Central Carolina Technical College (hosted 2016 SLC)

Students

University of South Carolina

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Questions?

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