Date: February 5, 2013

To: SCCD

From: Marsha Brown

Subject: **2011 CCSSE Highlights**

**Overview**

In Spring Quarter 2011, South Seattle participated in the *Community College Survey of Student Engagement* (CCSSE). This national survey collects and provides information about effective student engagement and learning practices. Approximately 600 South Seattle students participated in the survey, which was administrated by student services and instructional administrators with the cooperation of faculty members whose classes were randomly selected by CCSSE, and who made time for the in-class administration of the survey during the first two weeks in May. The purpose of the survey is to help understand and improve our ability to engage students—to engage them with their studies, with the faculty and staff, with other students, with campus services and activities, etc. The summary provided here is taken from the *Benchmarks* report, one of several reports provided by CCSSE to participating colleges.

**Benchmarks**

CCSSE has identified five “benchmarks”—“conceptually related survey items that address key areas of student engagement . . . that education research has shown to be important to students’ college experiences and educational outcomes” (CCSSE Benchmarks Report, 2011). The benchmarks are 1) active and collaborative learning; 2) student effort; 3) academic challenge; 4) student-faculty interaction; and, 5) support for learners. The individual survey items comprising each benchmark score can be found in Appendix A.

The table and graph below compare South Seattle’s overall benchmark scores from 2011 with scores from the last CCSSE administration in 2007. As can be seen, four of the college’s five benchmark scores improved over time.

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| **Benchmark** | **2007** | **2011** | **CHANGE** |
| Active and Collaborative Learning | 54.0 | **54.2** | 0.2 |
| Student Effort | 53.5 | **56.5** | 3.0 |
| Academic Challenge | 50.2 | **52.0** | 1.8 |
| Student-Faculty Interaction | 52.5 | **53.7** | 1.2 |
| Support for Learners | 50.8 | **51.4** | 0.6 |

Note: Benchmark scores are standardized to have a mean of 50 and a standard deviation of 25 across all respondents. For further information about how benchmark scores are computed, please visit [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org).

**Full-time and part-time students**

All colleges face greater challenges engaging part time students compared with those attending full time. The chart below indicates that 2011 survey responses from South’s full-time students were more favorable than those of part-time students

 

**Where South Seattle excels**

The chart below displays the specific questions on which the college **performed most favorably** compared with the 2011 *CCSSE* Cohort. (The 2011 *CCSSE* Cohort includes 440,000 students in 699 institutions who took the *CCSSE* in 2009, 2010 and 2011.) The figures represent the *percentage* of students responding as described.



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| **Benchmark** | **Item #** | **Item** |
| Active & Collaborative Learning | 4h | Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary) |
| Student-Faculty Interaction | 4q | Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework |
| Student Effort | 6b | Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment |
| Student Effort | 10a | Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, doing homework, or other activities related to your program) |
| Student Effort | 13d1 | Frequency: Peer or other tutoring |

**Where the college might improve**

The chart below displays the items on which the college **performed least favorably** compared with the 2011 *CCSSE* Cohort. As before, the figures represent the *percentage* who responded as described.



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| **Benchmark** | **Item #** | **Item** |
| Active & Collaborative Learning | 4b | Made a class presentation |
| Student Effort | 4d | Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources |
| Student-Faculty Interaction | 4l | Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor |
| Support for Learners | 9b | Providing the support you need to help you succeed at this college |
| Support for Learners | 9f | Providing the financial support you need to afford your education |

**Conclusion**

The CCSSE results will be shared in greater detail and discussed in various settings throughout the year so that we might learn from it ways we might better support student success. In conjunction with the results of the 2008 CCSSE survey, these current results will be used to set specific targets for our Core Theme Objectives and to guide the work occurring within our Strategic Initiatives.

For more information about CCSSE please visit the CCSSE website [www.ccsse.org](http://www.ccsse.org). For more information about South’s CCSSE results, contact Jack Bautsch at jack.bautsch@seattlecolleges.edu, 206-934-3655.

**Appendix A: Items Comprising Benchmarks**

**Active and Collaborative Learning**

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| 4. In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? |
| 4a | Asked questions in class or contributed to class discussions |
| 4b | Made a class presentation |
| 4f | Worked with other students on projects during class |
| 4g | Worked with classmates outside of class to prepare class assignments |
| 4h | Tutored or taught other students (paid or voluntary) |
| 4i | Participated in a community-based project as a part of a regular course |
| 4r | Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.) |

**Student Effort**

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| 4. In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? |
| 4c | Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in. |
| 4d | Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas of information from various sources |
| 4e | Came to class without completing readings or assignments |
| 6. During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done at this college? |
| 6b | Number of books read on your own (not assigned) for personal enjoyment or academic enrichment |
| 10. About how many hours do you spend in a typical 7-day week doing each of the following? |
| 10a | Preparing for class (studying, reading, writing, rehearsing, doing homework, or other activities related to your program) |
| 13. How often do you use the following? |
| 13d | Peer or other tutoring |
| 13e | Skills labs (writing, math, etc.) |
| 13h | Computer lab |

**Academic Challenge**

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| 4. In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? |
| 4p | Worked harder than you thought you could to meet an instructor’s standards or expectations. |
| 5. During the current school year, how much has your coursework at this college emphasized the following mental activities? |
| 5b | Analyzing the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory |
| 5c | Synthesizing and organizing ideas, information, or experiences in new ways |
| 5d | Making judgments about the value or soundness of information, arguments, or methods |
| 5e | Applying theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations |
| 5f | Using information you have read or head to perform a new skill |
| 6. During the current school year, about how much reading and writing have you done at this college? |
| 6a | Number of assigned textbooks, manuals, books or book-length packs of course readings |
| 6c | Number of written papers or reports of any length |
| 7 Mark the box that best represents the extent to which your examinations during the current year have challenged you to do your best work at this college(1= Extremely easy 7 = Extremely challenging) |
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| 9. How much does this college emphasize each of the following? |
| 9a | Encouraging you to spend significant amounts of time studying |

**Student-Faculty Interaction**

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| 4. In your experiences at this college during the current school year, about how often have you done each of the following? |
| 4k | Used email to communicate with an instructor |
| 4l | Discussed grades or assignments with an instructor |
| 4m | Talked about career plans with an instructor or advisor |
| 4n | Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class |
| 4o | Received prompt feedback (written or oral) from instructors on your performance |
| 4q | Worked with instructors on activities other than coursework. |

**Support for Learners**

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| 9. How much does this college emphasize each of the following? |
| 9b | Providing the support you need to help you succeed at this college |
| 9c | Encouraging contact among students from different economic, social, and racial or ethnic backgrounds |
| 9d | Helping you cope with your non-academic responsibilities (work, family, etc) |
| 9e | Providing the support you need to thrive socially |
| 9f | Providing the financial support you need to afford your education |
| 13. How often you use the following services |
| 13a | Academic advising/planning |
| 13b | Career counseling |