



Your Kid is Going WHERE?!?

NACAC Conference
Presentation
September 26, 2008



Beyond the Rankings....

- National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)
- Graduation Rates
- Post-Graduation Experiences



National Survey of Student Engagement

Why is everyone talking about
NSSE?



What is the NSSE?

- NSSE is a national survey designed to assess the extent to which first-year and senior students engage in a variety of educationally effective activities.
- The foundational premise is that students who are actively involved in both academic and out-of-class activities gain more from the college experience than those who are not as involved AND that level of involvement is a meaningful measure of institutional quality.



What is “student engagement”?

According to NSSE, it is the intersection of

- The time and energy students devote to educationally sound practices, and
- The policies and practices institutions use to encourage students to take part in these activities.



Which “educationally effective practices” does NSSE address?

- Student-faculty contact
- Active learning
- Prompt feedback
- Time on task
- High expectations
- Cooperation among students
- Respect for diverse talents and ways of learning



NSSE Benchmarks

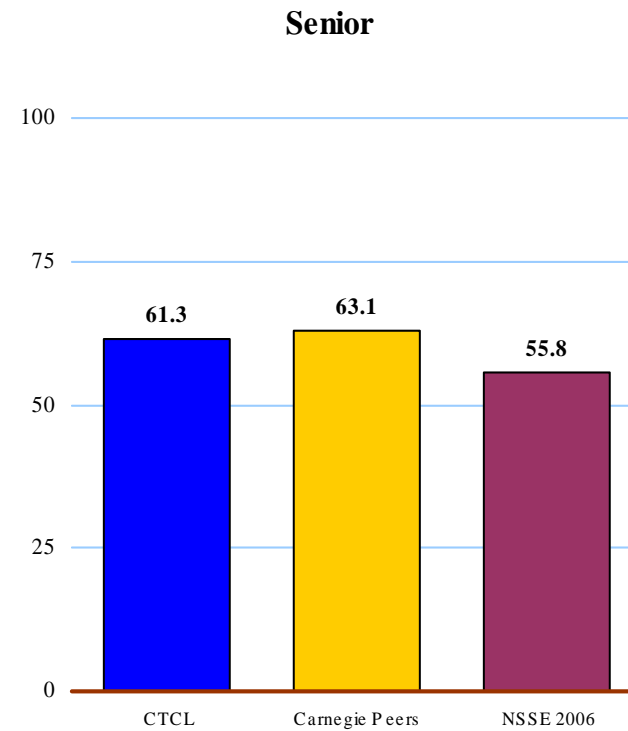
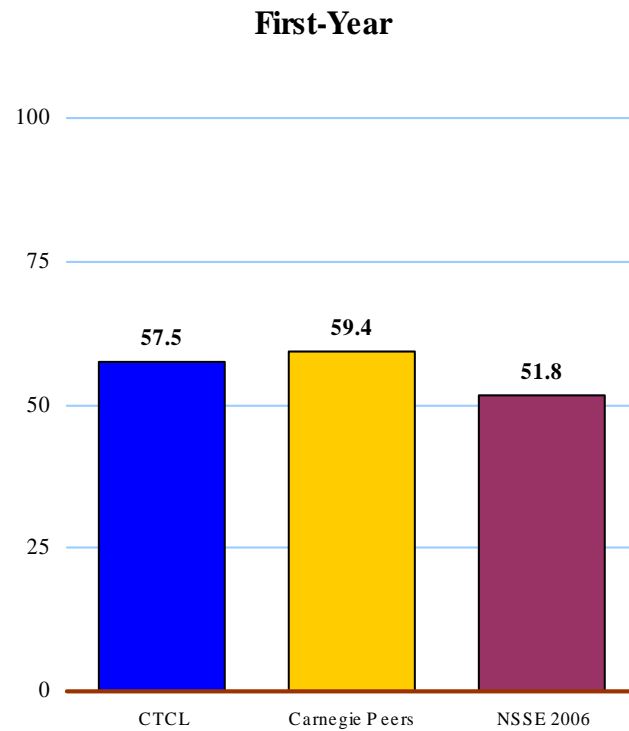
- Level of academic challenge
- Active and collaborative learning
- Student-faculty interaction
- Enriching educational experiences
- Supportive campus environment



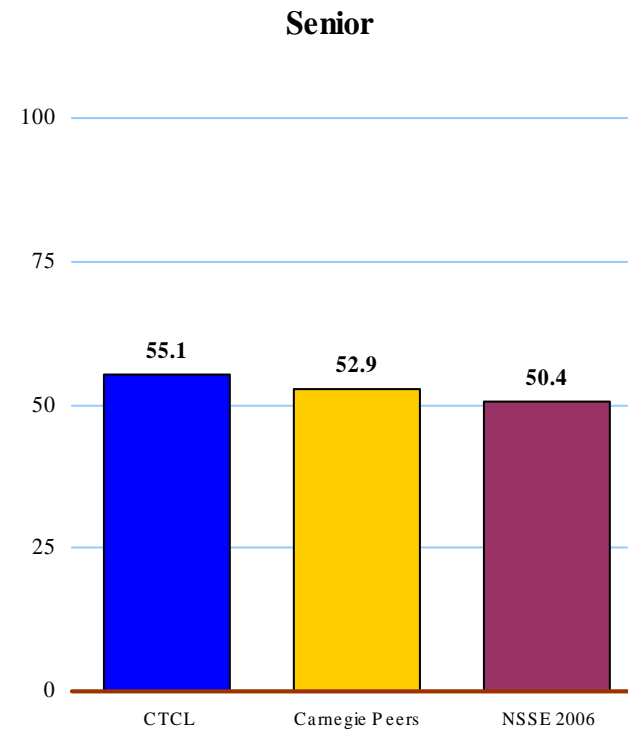
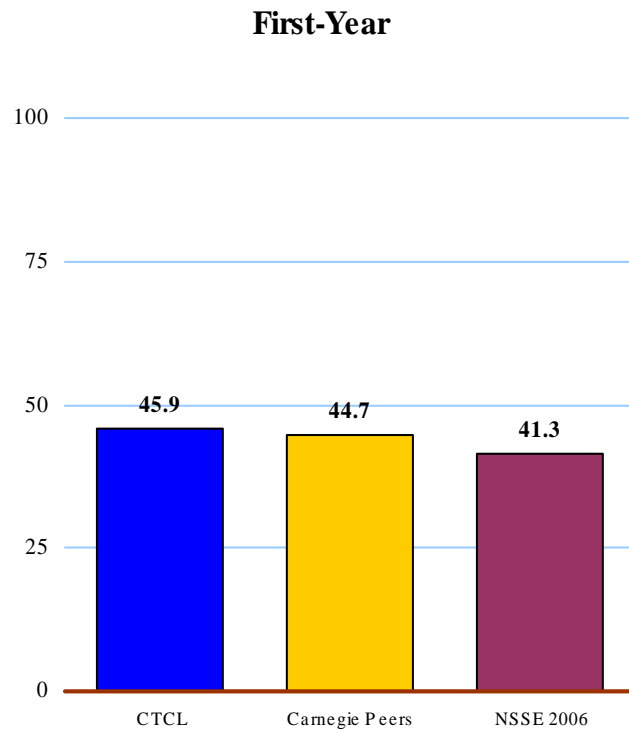
Comparisons

- CTCL – Colleges That Change Lives
- Carnegie Peers - Small, selective, 4-year, highly residential colleges; includes colleges like Barnard, Colorado, Denison, Franklin & Marshall, & Vassar
- NSSE – all schools participating in the NSSE that year

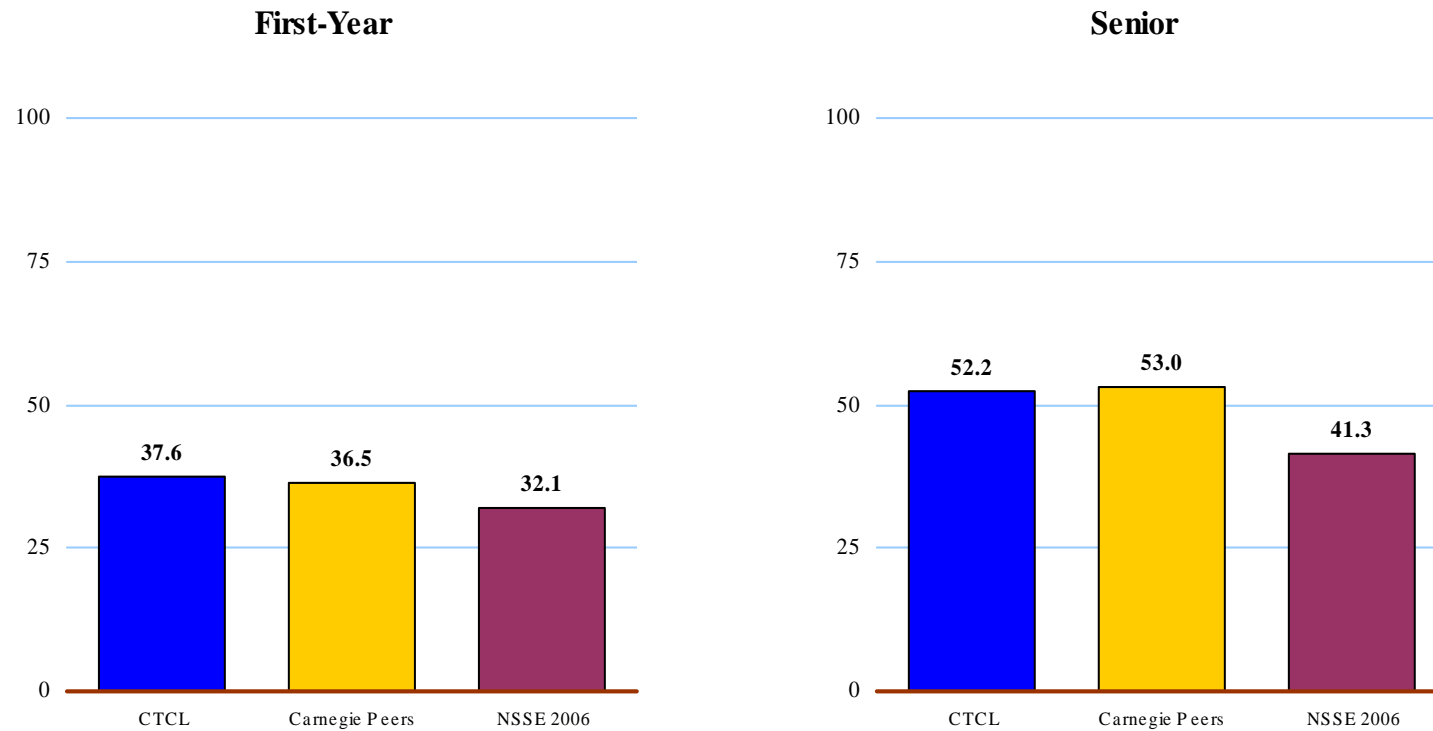
Level of Academic Challenge



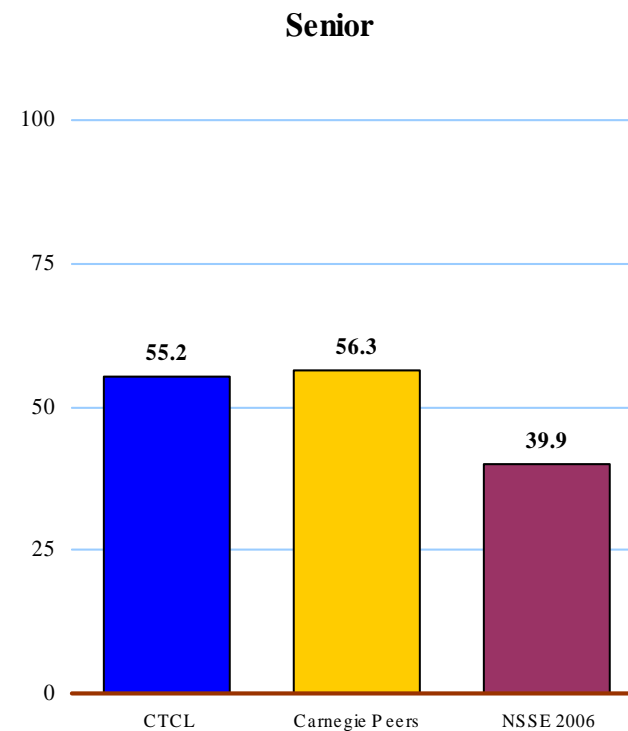
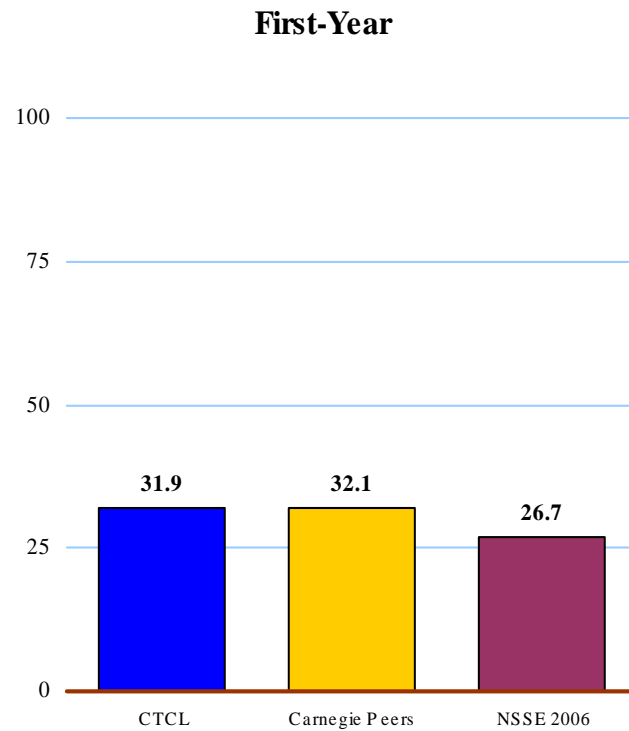
Active & Collaborative Learning



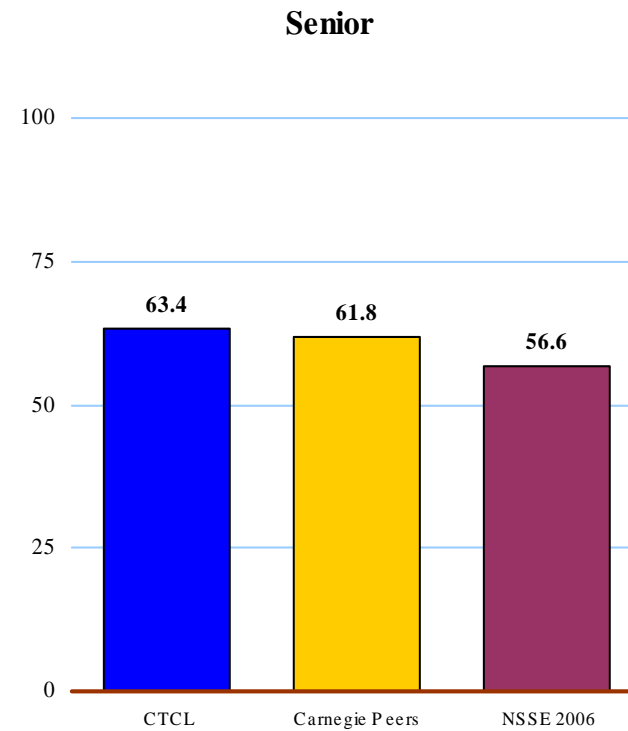
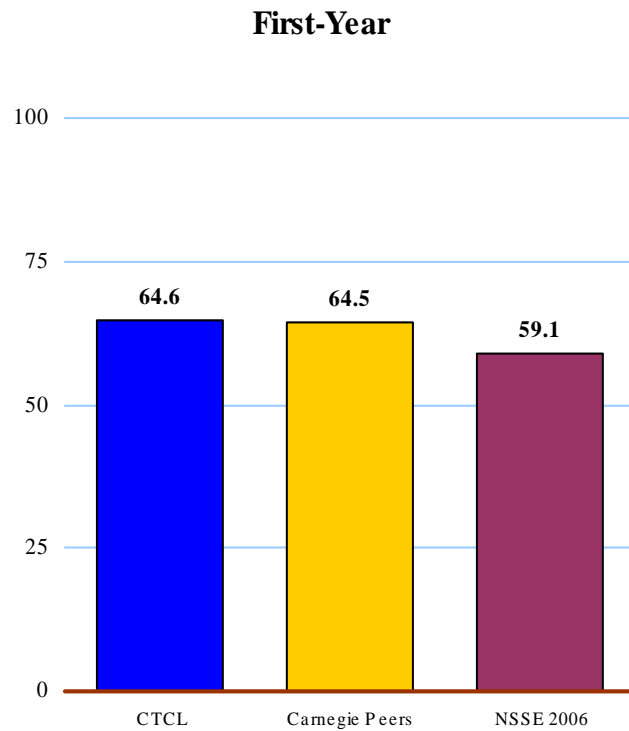
Student-Faculty Interaction



Enriching Educational Experiences



Supportive Campus Environment





Where do I go to find NSSE information?

- USA Today/NSSE website:

- http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2007-11-04-nsse-how-to_N.htm

- Individual School Websites




Graduation Rates

What the data really means...



What do graduation rates reflect?

- Institutional Resources
- Institutional Commitment
- Resources of Student Body
- Academic Preparation of Student Body



What should I consider when looking at graduation rates?

- 4-yr vs. 6-yr rates
- Residential, full-time student vs. part-time commuter
- Small college vs. large university system



Where do I go to find graduation rate information?

- U-CAN

- <http://www.ucan-network.org/members.asp>

- IPEDS College Navigator

- <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

- Individual School Websites



Post-Graduation Activities


The Beloit Experience

- Graduate school
- Community Service
- Employment



Class of 2006

- Out of 287 graduates, 14 Beloit graduates have already received post-baccalaureate degrees/certificates.
- There are currently 99 students from this class attending 84 different US institutions.
- Approximately 82% of grads were employed directly out of college.
- In 2007, there were 15 Beloit graduates serving in the Peace Corps; this tied for 24th place among all small colleges and universities (<5000) in the US.



Where do I go to find information about post-graduation activities?

- Individual School Websites
- Peace Corp

- <http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=resources.media.mediares.statsfacts>



How to Help Your Families Read the USNWR More Critically


- Peer assessment (25%)
- Finances/Faculty Resources (35%)
- Inputs (15%)
- Outcomes (25%)



ENLIGHTENED COLLEGE COUNSELING RESOURCES AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- **To enlighten: To make clear to the intellect or conscience; to shed the light of truth and knowledge upon; to furnish with increase of knowledge; to instruct; as, to enlighten the mind or understanding.**

Source: *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.*



Resources (in no particular order – expanded data available online)

- **NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT
ENGAGEMENT (NSSE)**

- http://nsse.iub.edu/html/students_parents.cfm

- **BLACK ENTERPRISE**

- <http://www.blackenterprise.com/lists/college.asp>



continued

- **BLACKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

- <http://www.jbhe.com/>

- **OUTSIDE MAGAZINE**

- http://outside.away.com/outside/features/200309/200309_college_towns_1.html

- **MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND**

- http://www.maldef.org/pdf/Scholarships_01252003.pdf



Continued again...

- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH**
- <http://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships>
- **MYMAJORS.COM**
- www.mymajors.com
- **WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS MAJOR?**
- <http://www.careers.siu.edu/majors/majors/default.html>



Continued yet again...still good stuff...

- **CHOOSING THE RIGHT COLLEGE**
- The [Intercollegiate Studies Institute \(ISI\)](#)
- www.collegeguide.org/choosing/index.html
- **THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS MYSTIQUE** by Bill Mayher
- **FAIRTEST**
- The National Center for Fair and Open Testing
- www.fairtest.org/index.htm



A series of articles...

- **ARTICLES BY JAY MATHEWS**
- **Staff Writer for the Washington Post**
- These and other useful, insightful articles found in the Washington Post archives at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/linkset/2005/03/24/LI2005032400611.html>



A few more resources...

- **MAKING A DIFFERENCE COLLEGE GUIDE**
8TH Edition
- <http://www.sageworks.net/pages/CGlinks.html>
- **THEY TEACH THAT IN COLLEGE?**
- College & Career Press LLC 2006)
- The Education Conservancy
- www.ec.org




And even more resources...

- **LOOKING BEYOND THE IVY LEAGUE:
FINDING THE COLLEGE THAT IS RIGHT FOR
YOU** by Loren Pope
- Penguin USA (Paper); Revised editions 1996,
2007
- **COUNCIL ON PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS
COLLEGES**
- www.coplac.org/



Who says USNWR is the only good resource?

- **WORK COLLEGES CONSORTIUM**
- www.workcolleges.org
- **AMERICA'S BEST COLLEGES FOR B STUDENTS** by Tamara Ott
- Supercollege, LLC; 2nd edition (2007)
- **THE YOUNG WOMAN'S GUIDE TO THE TOP COLLEGES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE THE BEST CHOICE** by Robert Mitchell
- John Wiley & Sons, 1998



There are a lot of resources for your families and you.

- **COLLEGES OF DISTINCTION**

- Student Horizons

- www.collegesofdistinction.com

- **COLLEGES THAT ENCOURAGE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT**

- Templeton Foundation Press, 1999

- http://www.templetonpress.org/book.asp?book_id=19

- **CREATIVE COLLEGES: A GUIDE FOR STUDENT ACTORS, ARTISTS, DANCERS, MUSICIANS, AND WRITERS** by Elaina Loveland

- SuperCollege, LLC, 2005



And last but not least...

- **COLLEGES THAT CHANGE LIVES**
- Penguin Books and non-profit organization
- www.ctcl.org



The Brave Choice



Questions & Comments



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