User Resources Overview
Activities of the NSSE Institute

Although the NSSE Institutional Report focuses squarely on delivering results to participating institutions, NSSE’s ultimate goal is not to collect and report data but to catalyze data use for improvement in undergraduate education. NSSE’s greatest strength is arguably its ability to stimulate serious conversations about what colleges and universities are doing well and where improvement is needed.

The User Resources section of the NSSE Institutional Report features materials to foster data use. It includes two tabs:

- **Guide to Online Resources** explains how to access your results online and introduces resources available on our website such as Accreditation Toolkits, NSSE Data User’s Guide, and NSSE Item Campuswide Mapping.

- **Using Your Data** provides general advice on using your NSSE, FSSE and BCSSE data as well as inspiring examples from our growing collection of shared experiences of how institutions have used their results.

**NSSE Institute**

The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice promotes the use of student engagement data for institutional improvement, produces resources to foster data use, and conducts research and development consistent with NSSE’s mission. The NSSE Institute supports a range of outreach services and research initiatives.

**Outreach Services**

**Custom Presentations and Consultations**

NSSE staff present at national and regional meetings; work with campuses to enhance data use; and produce workshops, webinars, and other resources to support data use. Customized workshops and consultations are available for institutions, state systems, and organizations. These examples illustrate the range of services offered and the diversity of institutions and organizations served:

- Presenting a workshop at a state university system conference for faculty interested in using NSSE data to assess participation in high-impact practices.

- Collaborating with the Association of College and University Housing Officers—International to review research comparing the engagement experiences of students who live on campus versus those who live off campus.

- Designing a retreat with administrators and faculty at an urban research university to review their NSSE and FSSE data and to identify policies and practices that affect student persistence and academic success.

- Facilitating a workshop for the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium on the use of student engagement data and ways to interest faculty in results.

- Advising teams at a national summer institute about learning communities on using NSSE results to develop and assess the effectiveness of learning communities.

**Workshops**

NSSE co-sponsors Using Evidence for Improvement: The Teaching and Learning National Institute (TLNI), held annually at The Evergreen State College. This residential institute provides learning space for campus teams using NSSE to develop evidence-based action plans for initiatives to foster teaching that sparks engaged student learning and to generate strategies for engaging full-time and part-time colleagues in elaborating and institutionalizing those action plans. A summary of TLNI is available on our website.

nsse.indiana.edu/links/TLNIEvergreen

TLNI 2019 was held July 8–11, 2019.

http://wcenter.evergreen.edu/tlni

**Interested in Hosting a NSSE User Workshop?**

If you are interested in hosting a NSSE user workshop at your institution or have questions about workshops, please contact Jillian Kinzie at 812-856-1430 (toll free 866-435-6773) or jkinzie@indiana.edu
**System and Consortium Workshops**

Customized workshops can be developed for a system or consortium, i.e., a group of institutions participating in NSSE that comprises multiple campuses within a state system or several institutions with a shared affinity. NSSE staff members work with systems and individual institutions to offer institution-based, regional, system, and consortium in-person and web-based workshops. Topics include using NSSE data for assessment, strategies for system data sharing, and integrating NSSE into accreditation and quality improvement plans.

**Webinars**

Free live, prerecorded, and archived webinars continue to be popular among NSSE campus project managers, faculty, administrators, institutional researchers, and student affairs staff who want to better use and understand their NSSE, BCSSE, and FSSE data. All webinars are recorded and available on the NSSE website. nsse.indiana.edu/links/webinar

**Research Initiatives**

**Assessing Quality and Equity in High-Impact Practices**

The Assessing Quality and Equity in High-Impact Practices (HIPs) project, supported by Lumina Foundation, builds on NSSE’s key role in catalyzing interest in HIPs, assessing HIPs, and supporting colleges and universities to use data to improve HIP quality and equity. Project activities include the creation and testing of questions to assess the eight elements of HIPs, including investment of time, high expectations, interactions with faculty, experiences with diversity, feedback, structured reflection, real-world application, and public demonstration. The HIP Quality item set was administered with a subset of institutions in NSSE 2019, and also as a standalone Qualtrics survey. Results and additional project work promise to address the current urgency to make HIPs more widespread while assuring their effectiveness, and to develop long-term strategies for studying and assessing HIPs.

**Global Learning and Internationalization in Higher Education**

The American Council on Education (ACE) and NSSE are collaborating to advance the assessment of students’ perceptions of internationalization and global learning and to relate this to internationalization efforts at American colleges and universities. Using data from ACE’s Mapping Internationalization on U.S. Campuses and NSSE’s Global Learning Topical Module, ACE and NSSE jointly analyzed administrator and student responses to study the relationship of institutions’ internationalization initiatives with students’ experiences of these activities and their global learning outcomes. Findings are featured in “A Glimpse of Global Learning” in Liberal Education.

www.aacu.org/liberaleducation/2017/spring/kinzie_helms cole

**Study of Living On Campus**

The Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I) is funding a multi-institution study of how living on campus affects student success—using NSSE data combined with enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse, the ACUHO-I Campus Housing Index, and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. This comprehensive data set allows for analyses of the relationship of first-year and sophomore students’ on- and off-campus living arrangements with their engagement in effective educational activities and their likelihood to persist in college.

**National Science Foundation Study of Undergraduate Research**

A five-year project to strengthen undergraduate research and create cohesive, research-based curricula for college-level biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology at 12 colleges and universities—funded in 2016 by a National Science Foundation grant to the Council on Undergraduate Research—will examine the effect of student characteristics and disciplinary cultures on student learning. Participants will be able to compare their assessment data with those obtained and benchmarked with nationally validated instruments, including questions on NSSE and FSSE.

**National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment**

Established in 2008, the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) assists institutions in discovering and adopting promising practices for assessing college student learning outcomes. Assessment That Matters: Trending Toward Practices That Document Authentic Student Learning. NILOA’s January 2018 release, reported in its major findings that national student surveys, such as NSSE, continue to be among the most common institution-level assessments and that approaches embedded in the everyday work of students, such as rubrics, have increased. Still, an implication discussed in the report is that institutions need to increase their documentation of improvements in student learning and institutional changes.

www.learningoutcomesassessment.org

**Other Research Collaborations**

NSSE has collaborated with higher education member groups and associations including the American Association for State Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, and the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium to advance shared efforts on assessment and the promotion of institutional effectiveness.