Current NSSE Institute Projects

In addition to regular consultations with a variety of institutions, the NSSE Institute is the home for projects that work toward meeting its two major goals of extending our understanding of effective educational practice and helping institutions use these practices. Here are two examples of current initiatives:

**Project DEEP**

Project DEEP is documenting effective educational practice at 20 colleges and universities with higher-than-predicted graduation rates and better-than-predicted scores on the five NSSE benchmarks of effective educational practice. The goal of this two-year project is to share success stories with institutions that are searching for ways to turn their NSSE results into action plans for promoting student success. Project DEEP is providing NSSE with a rich catalog of best practices that are adaptable to a variety of institutions. DEEP is a collaboration between NSSE, the American Association of Higher Education (AAHE), and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College.

**BEAMS**

The Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS) Project is a five-year initiative to assist Historically Black, Hispanic-serving, and Tribal colleges and universities use student engagement data and related information for institutional improvement. This project is serving up to 150 four-year colleges and universities that are members of the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education. Each institution is analyzing the scope and character of its students’ engagement in learning and will implement action plans to improve engagement, learning, persistence, and student success. BEAMS is a partnership among NSSE, the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE), and the Alliance for Equity in Education.
The NSSE Institute for Effective Educational Practice

The Institute works with institutions and other organizations to collect and disseminate research on promising practices and to assist schools in using data for institutional improvement and student success initiatives.

A time-honored approach to improving effectiveness is for organizations to identify and adapt distinctive qualities that characterize their successful high-performing counterparts. All colleges and universities can benefit from educationally effective policies and practices that have been successfully implemented at similar types of institutions.

A primary goal of the Institute is to draw upon the work of its current and future research initiatives to help faculty, administrators, and governing board members discover and implement effective mechanisms for linking information about student experiences to efforts to improve academic programs and support services. The NSSE survey results point to student behaviors and institutional actions that schools can do something about almost immediately to improve the student experience. Toward these ends, the NSSE Institute will extend existing NSSE efforts by seeking practical solutions for institutional improvement. Institute associates are available to work directly with colleges and universities to offer the following services:

**Campus Audits:**
Comprehensive or targeted campus audits to identify institutional strengths and weaknesses.

**Consultations:**
Institution-specific consultations to develop and help implement improvement initiatives and assist with accreditation or other campus priorities.

**Workshops:**
Institution-based, regional, and consortium workshops to assist with improvement initiatives.

**Ongoing Research and Evaluation:**
Targeted research and evaluation of initiatives and specific campus evaluation needs.

Contact the NSSE Institute for assistance with institutional improvement initiatives including:

- Using NSSE and related data for accreditation and self studies
- Adapting promising educational practices for campus specific use
- Conducting campus audits focused on improvement
- Evaluating curricular innovations and student success initiatives
- Facilitating faculty development workshops and governing board retreats
- Leading campus symposia focused on enhancing student success
- Integrating student and faculty perceptions of learning activities
- Working with institutional consortia and other organizations to improve educational practice

**Our Partners**

The NSSE Institute partners with institutions and organizations with similar interests to document and share promising policies and practices. The following organizations have partnered with us on recent projects:

- The American Association for Higher Education
- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
- The Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College
- Lumina Foundation for Education
- Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning