

NSSE TIMELINE | 1998 – 2009

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NSSE & RELATED PROJECTS AT THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR POSTSECONDARY RESEARCH

1998



George Kuh



John Hayek

1999



John Kennedy

2000

276*

2001

470*



Robert Gonyea

2002

618*



Jillian Kinzie

- In February 1998, Russ Edgerton of the Pew Charitable Trusts organizes a group of scholars to explore ways of understanding the extent to which institutions emphasize effective teaching practices and students engage in educationally purposeful activities. Meetings are held to introduce concepts behind a survey instrument to assess quality in undergraduate education.
- Representatives from accrediting agencies, state systems, as well as individuals from the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the Annapolis Group are consulted about a national survey.
- With the support of the Pew Trusts, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) coordinates the design of the survey. The design team consists of Alexander Astin, Gary Barnes, Arthur Chickering, Peter Ewell, John Gardner, George Kuh, Richard Light, Ted Marchese, and C. Robert Pace.
- Feedback on the instrument is gathered from a series of meetings with potential stakeholders and participants to prepare for pilot launch the following year.
- The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) is created to address this need and gain a better understanding of students' educational experiences in college.
- George Kuh and John Hayek launch NSSE in two waves. The pilot of NSSE is a "tryout" phase in spring 1999 with 12 institutions participating. The second wave is a larger administration in fall 1999 with 56 institutions participating.
- The National Advisory Board (NAB) is established.
- The Indiana University Center for Survey Research (CSR), led by Director John Kennedy, partners with the Center for Postsecondary Research (CPR) for survey administration.
- Robert Gonyea joins the project as a research analyst.
- The first full-scale national administration of NSSE launches on paper and online.
- Five "Benchmarks of Effective Educational Practice" are introduced in the inaugural *2000 Institutional Report*.
- The NSSE survey hailed as an alternative to rankings that neglect the significance of the student experience.
- USA Group and the Pew Charitable Trusts Fund develop the Community College Student Survey of Engagement (CCSSE). UT Austin pilots first CCSSE administration.
- First NSSE regional users gatherings are offered at the University of Akron, then for a group of Texas colleges and universities.
- Numerous NSSE announcements are reported by national media, such as ABC News, NBC "Today Show," National Public Radio, The Washington Post, Cox News Service, and the Associated Press.
- With support from the Lumina Foundation for Education and the Center of Inquiry in the Liberal Arts at Wabash College, CPR and the American Association for Higher Education (AAHE) collaborate on Project DEEP (Documenting Effective Educational Practice), to explore the practices of educationally effective institutions.
- Under the direction of Jillian Kinzie, the NSSE Institute is established to conduct externally funded research, and work with institutions and other organizations with goals that complement those of NSSE.
- With support from the Lumina Foundation for Education, NSSE partners with AAHE on the Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS) Project to improve retention, student engagement, and institutional effectiveness at minority-serving institutions.
- The first Institutional Interface is created, allowing NSSE clients to monitor survey administration.

*The cumulative number of participating U.S. & Canadian institutions as of the given year.

2003

732*

- In response to growing demand for an instrument to measure faculty perceptions and expectations of student engagement, the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) is developed and pilot tested.
- Pilot administration of the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE) in the spring of 2003 with 12 law schools participating.
- The pilot of the High School Survey of Student Engagement (HSSSE), a student engagement survey for secondary schools, is administered at several high schools in Indiana and Kentucky.

2004

858*



Tom Nelson Laird

- As part of an ongoing public awareness campaign to refocus the national conversation about what constitutes quality in the college experience, NSSE publishes its first guide for high school students, *College. What You Need to Know Before You Go*.
- NSSE receives a 2004 Telly Award for its Informational Video.
- NSSE becomes involved with the American Democracy Project (ADP), a joint project of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and The New York Times, designed to promote civic and moral development of college students.
- Web+ is introduced as a mode of administration for the NSSE survey, which encourages schools to use the Web version of NSSE, with a sample of non-respondents receiving a paper survey.
- To help institutions use NSSE results for accreditation, NSSE accreditation toolkits are introduced in the *Institutional Report 2004*. These documents map items on the survey to regional accreditation standards and provide specific examples of how institutions use NSSE in accreditation self-studies.
- NSSE launches a survey of entering college students regarding their high school experiences, as well as their attitudes and expectations for the first year of college. Almost 16,000 first-year students at 28 institutions complete the pilot. This instrument becomes the Beginning College Survey of Student Engagement (BCSSE).

2005

972*



Todd Chamberlain

- The first full administration of the FSSE receives over 20,000 respondents from 133 institutions (100 of which are new institutional participants in 2004) under the direction of Project Manager Tom Nelson Laird.
- Illinois State University hosts the regional users workshop. More than 60 participants from 34 college and universities attend.
- NSSE Institute partners with University of Central Florida for the spring regional users workshop. The University of Central Oklahoma hosts a fall workshop.
- Kuh, Kinzie, Schuh, Whitt & Associates publish major findings from Project DEEP in *Student Success in College: Creating Conditions That Matter* (Jossey-Bass).
- The FSSE Sounding Board, an advisory board of national experts on teaching, learning, and collegiate faculty as well as representatives from participating campuses, is convened.
- The Pocket Guide is renamed: *A Pocket Guide to Choosing a College: Are You Asking the Right Questions on a College Campus Visit?*
- A second BCSSE pilot is administered.

2006

1,081*

- Six Canadian institutions participate and adapt the survey to fit the Canadian context. During this pilot year, 39,968 students at 71 institutions, including 6 Canadian complete the Beginning University Survey of Student Engagement (BUSSE).
- *Working with NSSE Data: A Facilitator's Guide* is developed to help instructional leaders facilitate workshops, presentations, and discussions about interpreting and using NSSE data for campus stakeholders.



Jim Cole

- The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP), which manages the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education Program, replaces AAHE as a Partner in the BEAMS Project.
- USA TODAY approaches NSSE about a partnership to publish benchmark scores of participating colleges and universities to assist parents and students in the college choice process.
- Todd Chamberlain is named Assistant Director of Survey Operations.
- The FSSE Typical-Student survey option is developed and piloted to accommodate institutions that want to collect faculty data more closely aligned to data collected by NSSE. The original FSSE questionnaire is renamed the Course-Based survey option.
- The inaugural full-scale BCSSE administration is launched.

2007

1,184*



Alex McCormick

- 257 colleges and universities release their benchmark scores on the *USA TODAY* Web site in late 2007.
- The *Annual Report 2007, Experiences That Matter: Enhancing Student Learning and Success*, explores the relationships between effective educational practice and selected aspects of student success in college.
- NSSE issues “*Connecting the Dots*,” a report analyzing the relationships between student engagement and selected outcomes, and the institutional practices and conditions that foster student success.
- NSSE launches a live, interactive Webinar Series with a presentation on “Assessing the First Year Experience.”
- George Kuh announces plans to step down as NSSE Director, but continue as Director of CPR. A national search ends with the appointment of Alexander C. McCormick as NSSE’s new director.
- More than 1,458,000 students at nearly 1,200 four-year colleges and universities have participated in NSSE thus far.
- To promote and facilitate public reporting, NSSE provides institutions with a new report, *What Students Are Saying About Their <Your Institution> Experience*.
- Jim Cole is named Project Manager of BCSSE.

2008

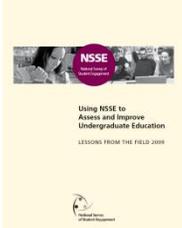
1,320*

- A third BCSSE administration includes 14,471 students enrolled in 31 schools, including 11 Canadian institutions.
- The *Multi-Year Benchmark Report* and the *Multi-Year Data Analysis Guide* are introduced in the *Institutional Report 2008*. The multi-year report shows benchmark scores for all years of NSSE participation to help schools identify potential changes over time. The multi-year guide provides institutions with recommendations for analyzing data from multiple NSSE administrations.
- The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) selects NSSE as one of the instruments to be used to document “Student Perceptions and Experiences,” a section of the *College Portrait*.
- *Promoting Engagement for All Students: The Imperative to Look Within – 2008 Results* calls attention to the importance of within-institution variation in student engagement.
- A record number of institutions (772) participate in NSSE, and 391 institutions participate in the USA TODAY initiative.

2009

1,393*

- FSSE introduces *Working with FSSE and NSSE Findings: A Facilitator’s Guide*, to assist FSSE users in leading workshops, presentations, and discussions about student engagement on their campuses.
- Institutional Reports include the new *BCSSE-NSSE Combined Report*, presenting results from students who completed both the BCSSE and NSSE.



- “Using NSSE in Institutional Research” is published as a special issue in the *New Directions for Institutional Research* series.
- *Using FSSE Data* is included in the *Institutional Report 2009* to further assist institutional users in finding resources and communicating their survey results.
- 129 institutions register to participate in BCSSE 2009, a notable increase from previous years. Since 2007, more than 200,000 first-year students at 258 institutions across the U.S. and Canada have completed BCSSE.
- *Using NSSE to Assess and Improve Undergraduate Education Lessons from the Field 2009*, an in-depth examination of how institutions use their NSSE results, is published.
- NSSE is recognized with an honorable mention in the National Council for Continuous Improvement in Higher Education’s (NCCI) “Leveraging Excellence” award program.
- *The Student Experience in Brief*, a report to facilitate public reporting of NSSE results, replaces “What Students Are Saying”.
- A new Institutional Interface is created, allowing clients online access to all current and past NSSE, FSSE, & BCSSE reports and data.
- To date, about 1,393 U.S. and Canadian institutions have participated in NSSE.