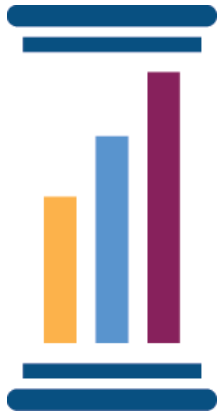


Putting NSSE Results to Use: Don't Stop with Your "Average Student"



Alexander C. McCormick
Indiana University Bloomington

NSSE Users Workshop - Bucknell University
April 10, 2015



The Average Student Commands a Lot of Attention

- **Peer comparison & benchmarking**
 - ◆ NSSE reports, for example
- **Reports that summarize the student body**
 - ◆ Average SAT/ACT scores





In Defense of the Average Student

- What are some of the virtues of the Average Student?
- What does s/he allow us to do?



Still, the
“Average Student”
is a Mythical Beast.

Consider Bucknell's Average Student

- **52% female, 48% male**
- **78% White, 5% Latino, 4% Asian, 3% African American...**
- **18% from PA, 78% other US, 5% int'l**
- **55% receives financial aid (!?)**
- **Majoring in**
 - Social sciences
 - Engineering
 - Business
 - Biological sciences
 - Psychology
 - English
 - Education
 - and 10 other areas!!

Courtesy of NCES College Navigator



What's the big deal?

Don't we need the average student to do our job?

Don't Panic

There's nothing wrong with the average student as a convenient fiction



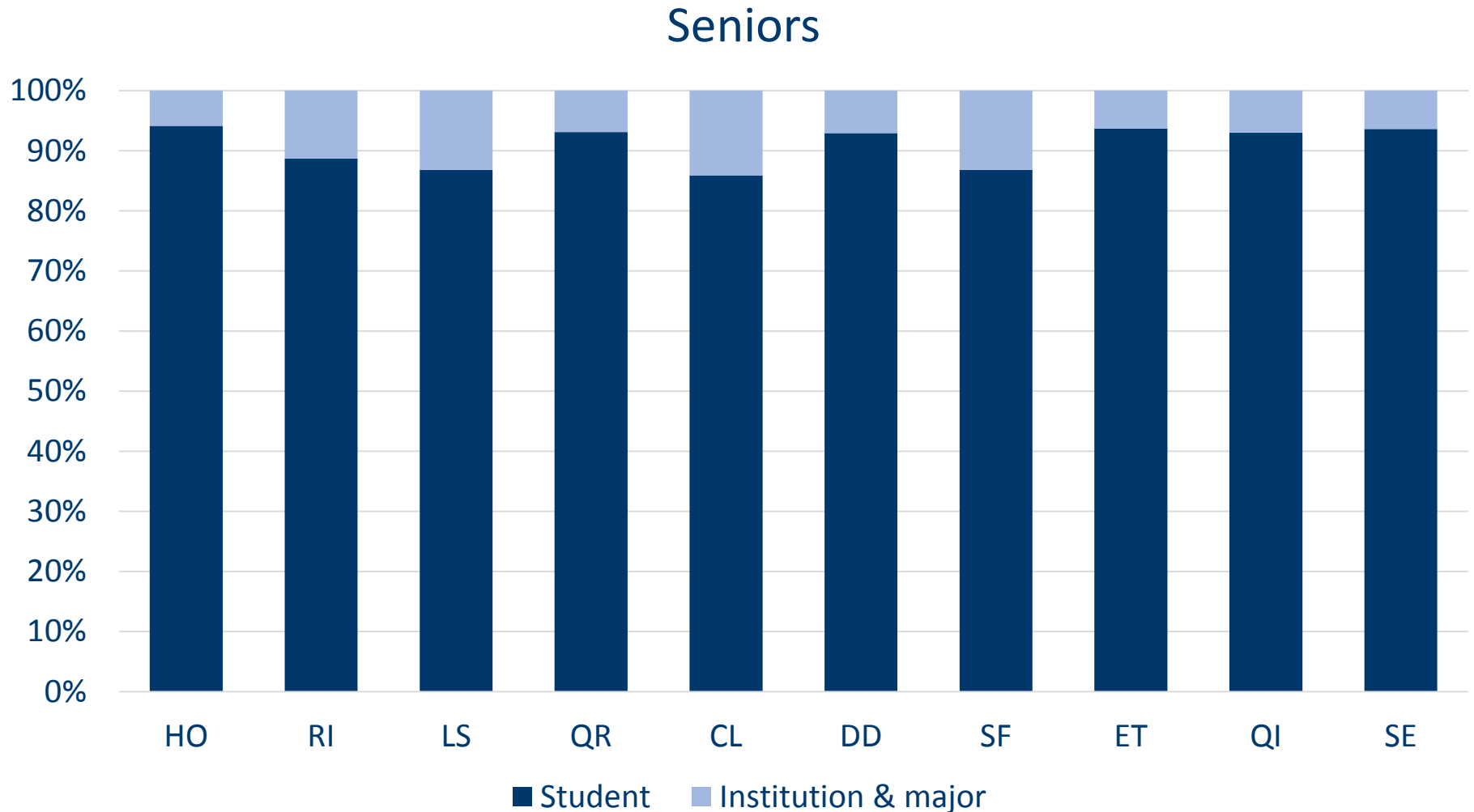
But if the conversation **STOPS** there, you're missing most of the action

To illustrate...

FYI: NSSE Shorthand

Engagement Indicator	Shorthand
Higher-Order Learning	HO
Reflective & Integrative Learning	RI
Learning Strategies	LS
Quantitative Reasoning	QR
Collaborative Learning	CL
Discussions with Diverse Others	DD
Student-Faculty Interaction	SF
Effective Teaching Practices	ET
Quality of Interactions	QI
Supportive Environment	SE

Most EI Score Variation is Between Students



To Put It Another Way...





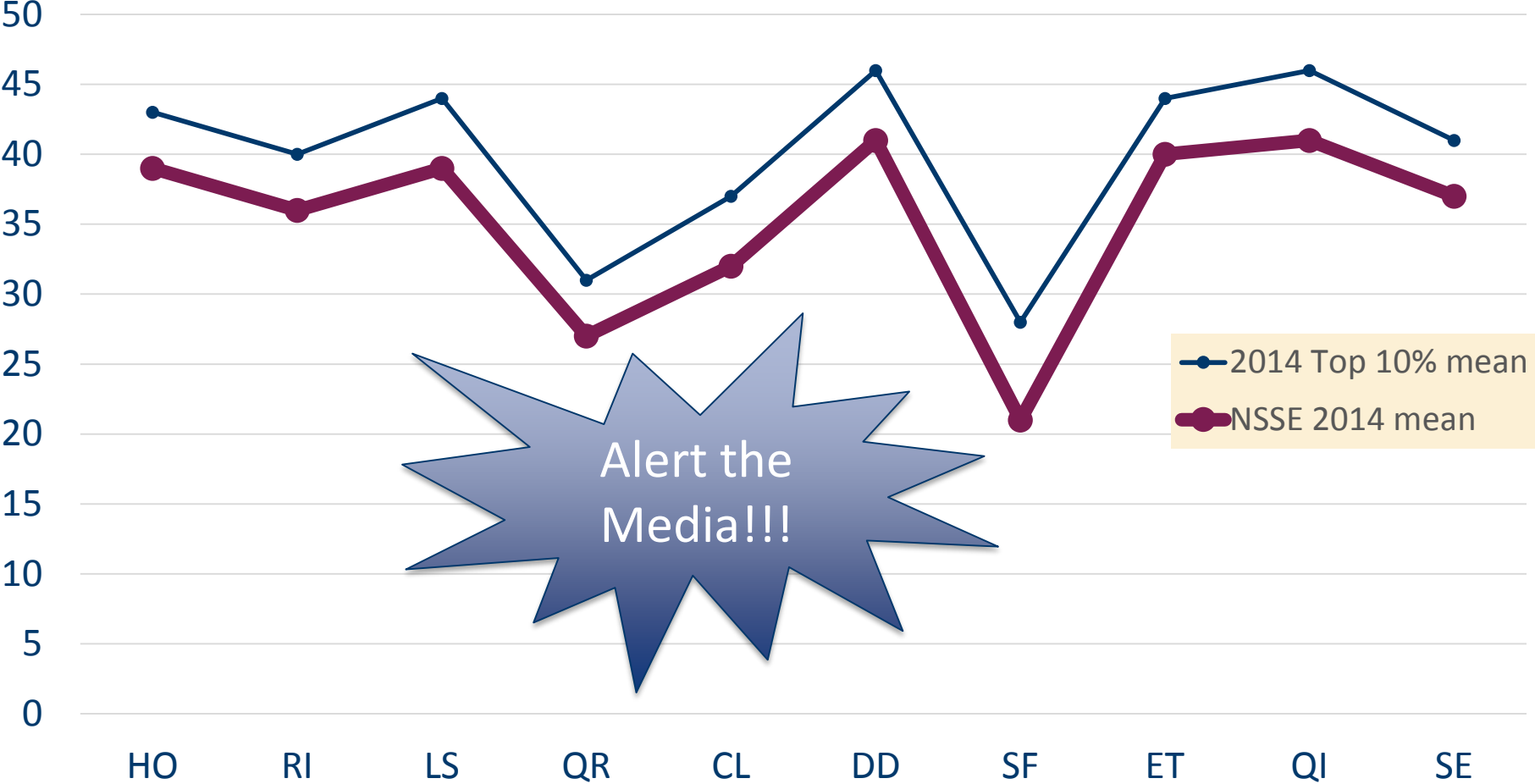
Consider NSSE

“Top 10%” Institutions

(from NSSE *Institutional Report*)

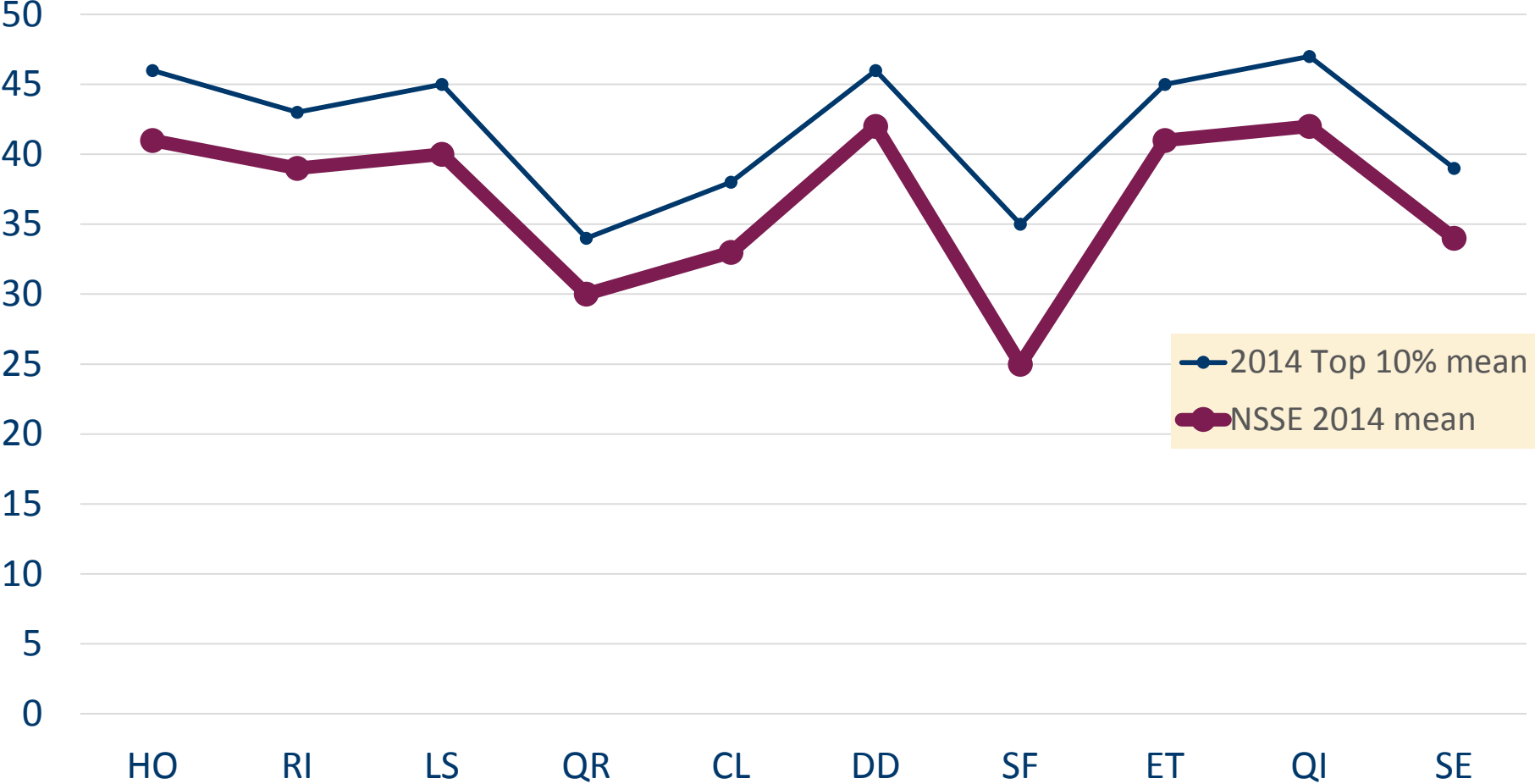
A Look at 2014 Average Scores

Average EI Scores for First-Year Students



A Look at 2014 Average Scores

Average EI Scores for Seniors



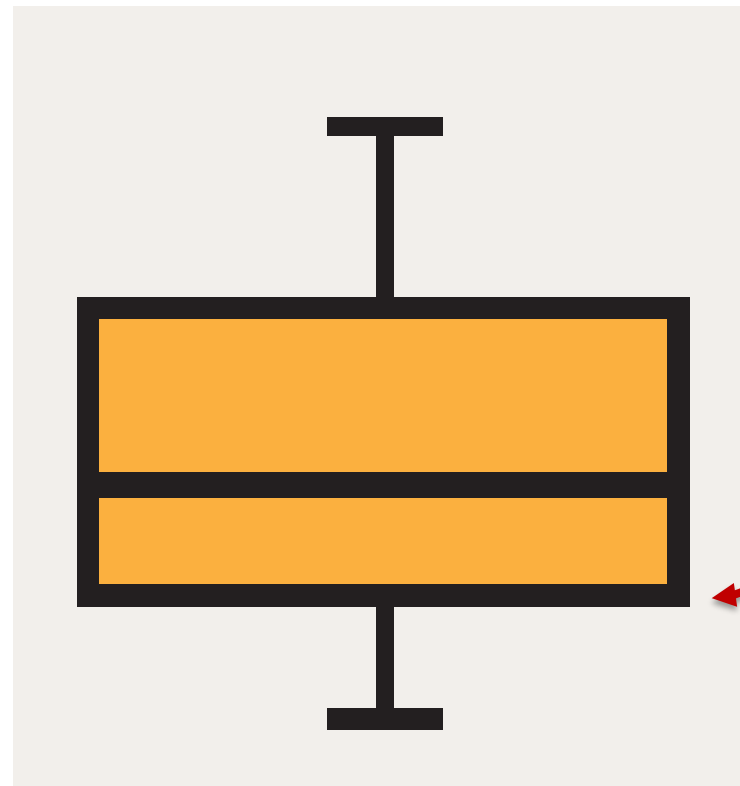


A Deeper Look

- How do the *least engaged* students in the top 10% group compare?
 - Let's look at the 25th percentile scores
 - Still compare with the NSSE 2014 average

Focus: The Least Engaged Students at Top 10% Schools

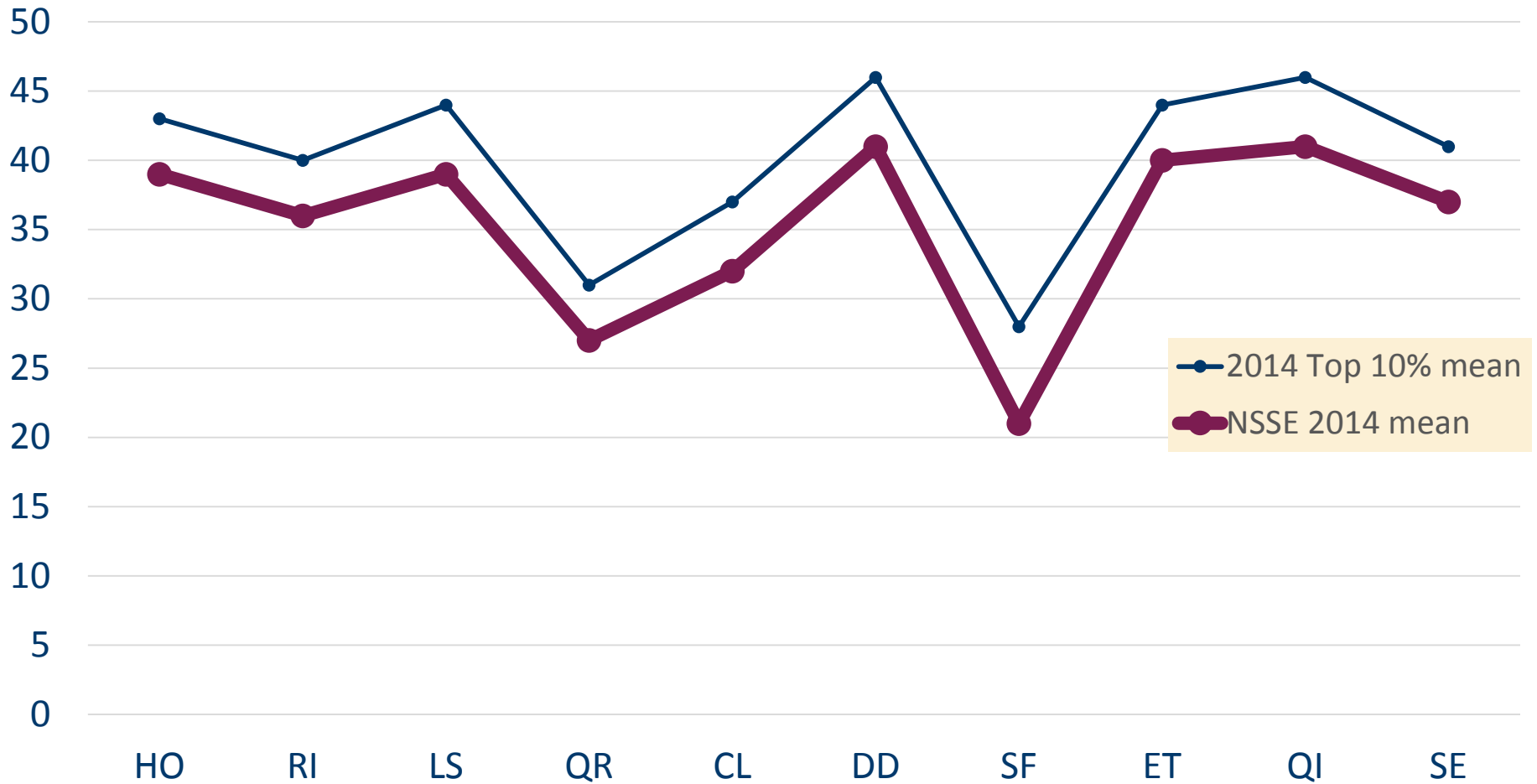
In Boxplot terms...



The 25th
percentile score

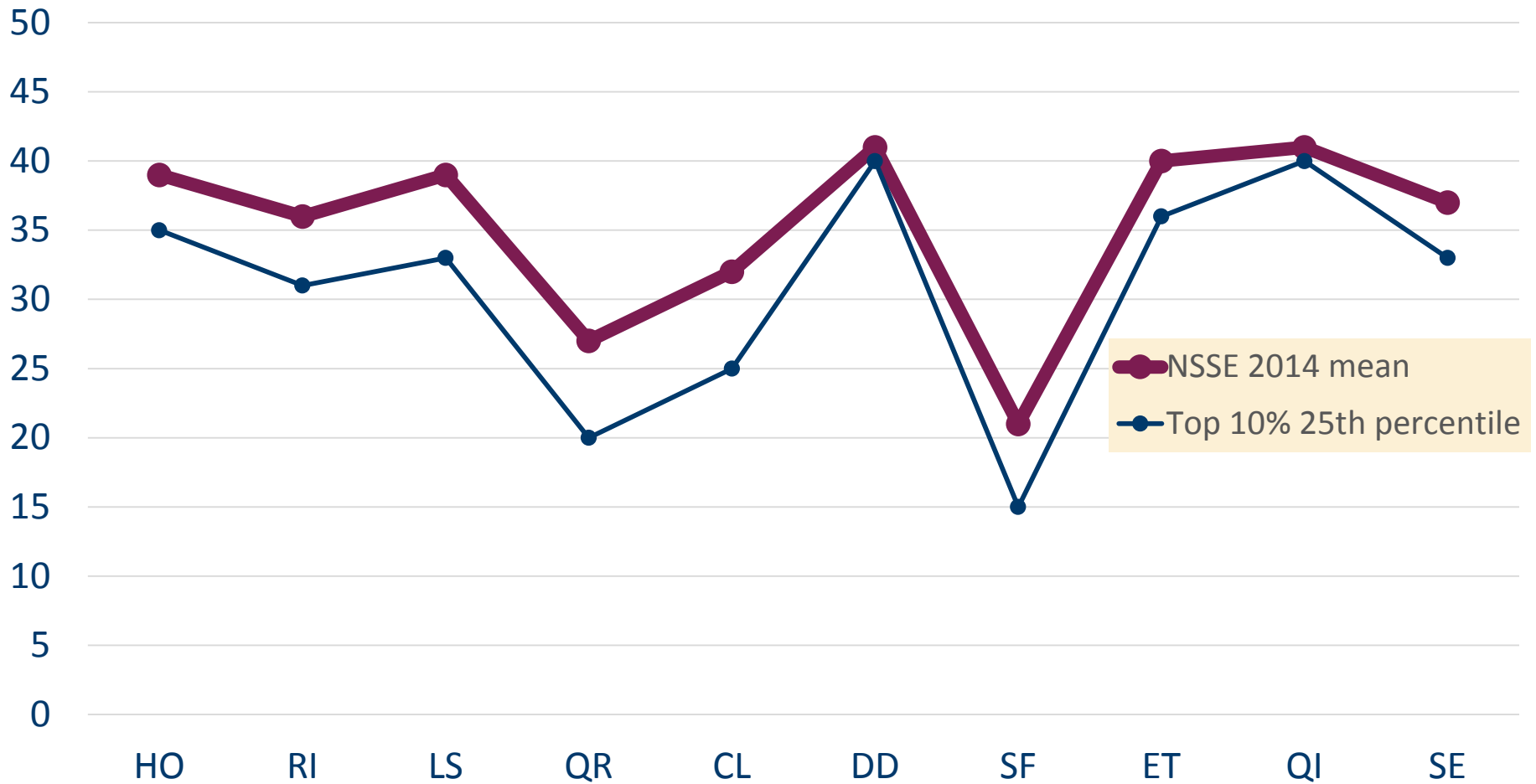
2014 Average Scores

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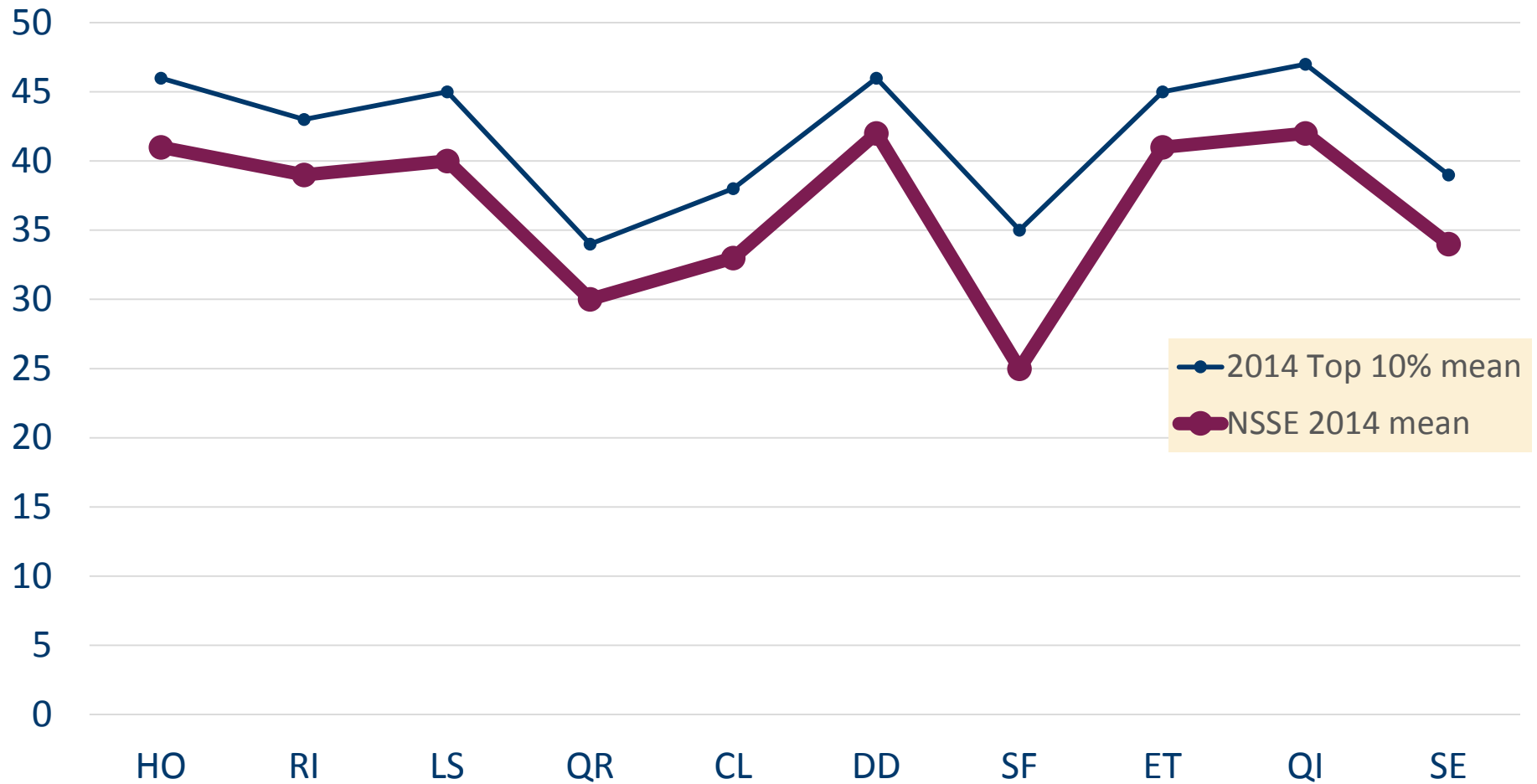
A Deeper Look

First-Years: NSSE 2014 Average vs. 25th Percentile for the Top 10%



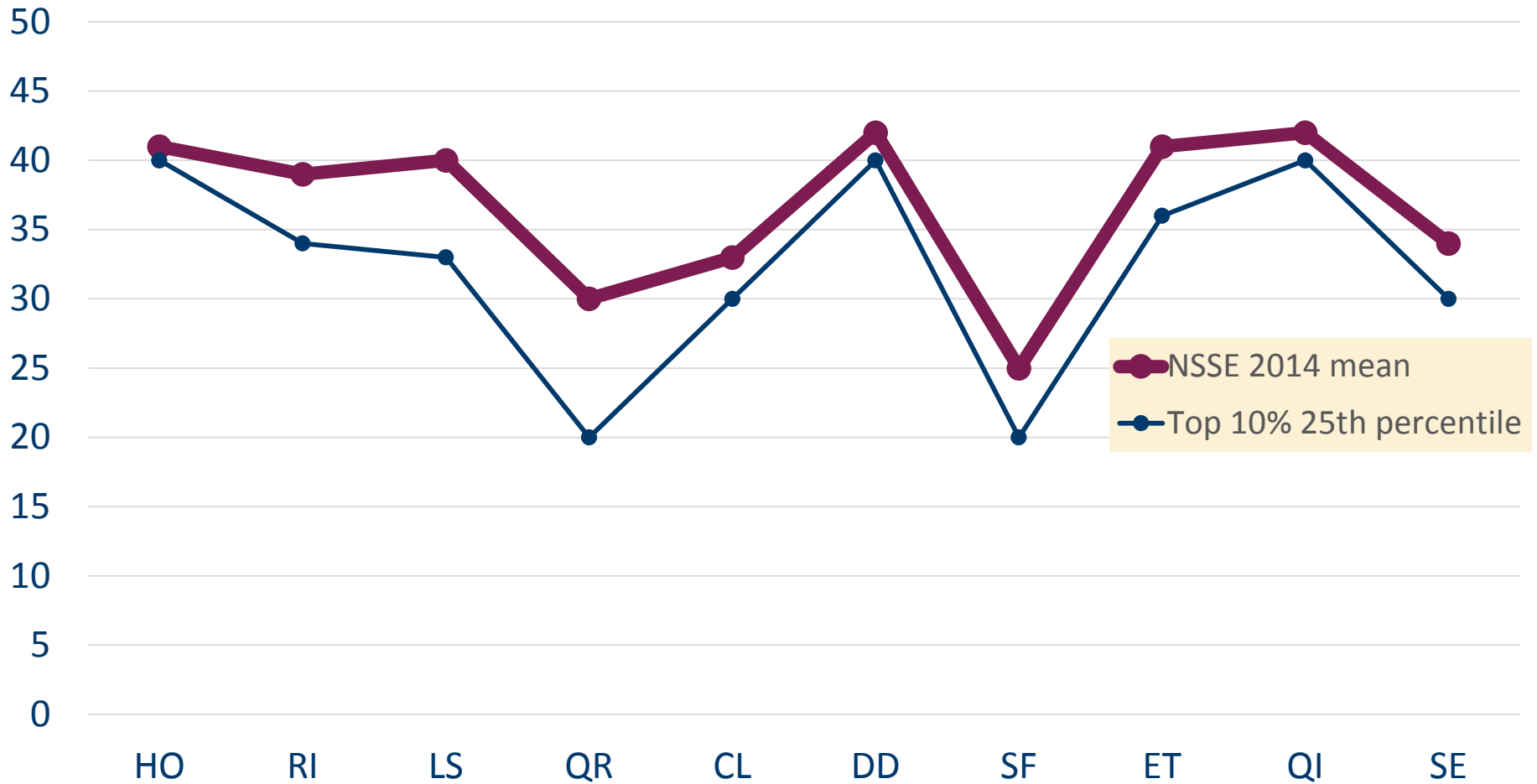
2014 Average Scores

Average EI Scores for Seniors



A Deeper Look

Seniors: NSSE 2014 Average vs. 25th Percentile for the Top 10%





What Does this Tell Us?

- Judged by average scores, “Top 10%” institutions look good!
- But looking deeper reveals a lot of students with low levels of engagement!



What are productive and useful ways to get beyond “average student” thinking?

How can you help key constituencies understand?