Engagement and Characteristics of Queer Students

Allison BrckaLorenz
Jana Clark

Program presented at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Annual Conference, 2017, Halifax

NSSE Data & Respondents

• National Survey of Student Engagement
  • An annual survey of first-year and senior students measuring their participation in educationally effective experiences
  • Topics cover content such as aspects of academic challenge, learning with peers, experiences with faculty, campus environment, and high-impact practices
• We used NSSE data from 2013-2016
• Ten Canadian institutions (12%) opted in to ask the sexual orientation question
• 792 students identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual, another sexual orientation (non-straight), or questioning or unsure

Sexual Orientation

Gender Identity

Disability

Similar Demographics

• First-generation status (43-45%)
• Racial/ethnic background (with two exceptions)
Similar Educational Characteristics

- Mostly A's and B's (90%)
- Living on campus (33-35%)
- Transfer students (11-13%)
- A student-athlete sponsored by institution’s athletic department (4-5%)
- Membership in a social fraternity or sorority (2-3%)
- Taking all courses online (2-3%)

Higher Engagement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Queer students</th>
<th>Straight students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reflective &amp; Integrative Learning</td>
<td>• Quantitative Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Discussions with Diverse Others</td>
<td>• Learning Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Student-Faculty Interaction</td>
<td>• Collaborative Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Perceived Gains</td>
<td>• Supportive Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Satisfaction</td>
<td>• Perceived Gains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Similar Engagement

- Higher-Order Learning
- Discussions with Diverse Others
- Student-Faculty Interaction
- Effective Teaching Practices
- Quality of Interactions
Final thoughts or questions?

Thanks for joining us!

Find this presentation and more information about NSSE and queer college students at nsse.indiana.edu

Allison BrckaLorenz
abrckalo@indiana.edu

- Bishop's University
- Laurentian University
- Nipissling University
- St. Thomas University
- Trinity Western University
- University of British Columbia
- University of British Columbia Okanagan
- University of New Brunswick - Fredericton
- Western University
- Wilfrid Laurier University