Predicting DEEP Cultures in the First Year of College

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The Parsing Project

- 34 Colleges and Universities
  - Faculty
  - Administrators
- Approximately 2,685 first-year students
  - CAAP
  - ACT, Inc.
  - NSSE
Figure 1. A comprehensive model of influences on student learning and persistence
Questions for Today

- Do organizational variables influence student DEEP culture?

- Hypothesized “contextual effects”
  - “…Learn how an institution’s contextual variables—it’s character if you will—shape behavior.” (Kuh, 1993, p. 661)
  - Being around other good students provides benefits
  - Evidence from earlier study
    - Supporting all Students
Areas of Focus Today

Organizational Context

Internal Structures, Policies, and Practices

Academic and Co-Curricular Programs, Policies, and Practices

Faculty Culture

Peer Environment

Individual Student Experiences

DEEP Experiences

Outcomes

• Critical Thinking
• Writing Skills

Areas of Focus Today
Methodology

- Institution Level Analysis
  - OLS
  - $n = 34$
  - Variables were institutional averages
Findings

- Overall DEEP Average
  - Traditional variables (Carnegie, etc.): predict 46%
  - Institutional polices and faculty perceptions: n/s
  - Faculty Behavior (good teaching practices): 64% (adds 18%)

- Integrative Learning
- Reflective Practice
- Higher Order Thinking
Areas of Focus Today

Organizational Context
- Internal Structures, Policies, and Practices
- Academic and Co-Curricular Programs, Policies, and Practices
- Faculty Culture

Peer Environment
- Individual Student Experiences
- DEEP Experiences

Outcomes
- Critical Thinking
- Writing Skills
Methodology

- **HLM**
  - Predictors Grand Mean Centered
  - Outcomes
    - CAAP Critical Thinking
    - CAAP Writing Skills
  - Contextual Effects
    - Include DEEP Scale Score “at both levels”
Findings

- Positive Contextual Effects for CAAP-CT
  - Contextual Effect explained 10% of L2 variance

- Marginal Effect for CAAP-WS
Students appear to benefit not only from own participation in DEEP Learning Activities, but from the DEEP Learning Activities of those around them.

- “A rising tide lifts all boats”