**Opening Comments:** Alex McCormick, NSSE Director

With an explicit focus on the future of the National Survey of Student Engagement, Dr. McCormick opens this session, “NSSE’s Second Decade: Envisioning an Updated Survey,” by offering a challenge: to find new ways to better understand student engagement. He then invites attendees to consider several questions: Are there areas not addressed with the existing survey? Are there opportunities for us to delve a bit deeper with certain topics? Are there enhanced opportunities for customization now that more than 95% of our respondents are completing the survey online? What do we want NSSE to look like as we move into this second decade?

Because any enhancements has ramifications for multiple stakeholders, Dr. McCormick invites those present to join the conversation about bringing the survey up to date, and making it more useful. He notes several restraints and/or restrictions to bear in mind, and he also points to the necessity of keeping a very sharp focus on the types of activities and involvements that correspond to learning outcomes and that have some grounding in the empirical literature.

And with those words, Dr. McCormick points to the seven groups created for this initial discussion, each with a different theme. In two twenty-minute rotations, these roundtable conversations will be lead by a research analyst with a doctoral student as note-taker. The expectation is two-fold: engaging discussion and valuable feedback.

**Roundtable Sessions**

Following Dr. McCormick’s opening comments participants chose two roundtable sessions of 20 minutes each from the seven topics listed below:

- A. Using NSSE with other assessment tools
- B. Introducing new constructs to explore or expand on
- C. Considering first-year and senior specific versions and items
- D. Focusing on institutional practice and assessment
- E. Assessing NSSE scales, benchmarks, data quality
- F. Examining NSSE in the disciplines
- G. Exploring teaching and learning issues in NSSE and FSSE

**Roundtable 1. Using NSSE with Other Assessment Tools**

*Julie Williams & Wen Qi, Facilitators*

Prompt Questions:

1. To what extent do you use NSSE in concert with other assessment tools? What are the main reasons to analyze NSSE data with other assessment tools, and what are the barriers?
2. What tools or resources might we develop for institutions to analyze NSSE in concert with other data sources?
3. What research or assessment initiatives combining NSSE with other sources of data might we explore to enhance for the future of higher education?

**Overall Themes**

- Link NSSE to other assessment tools
- Conduct campus visits to allow for deeper understanding and direct usable impact with
qualitative methods

- Focus future survey enhancements on non-traditional or ‘metro-student’ populations as they differ from the current traditional student emphasis of the survey

Roundtable 2. Introducing New Constructs for NSSE

Shimon Sarraf & Tony Ribera, Facilitators

Prompt Questions:
1. Given trends in higher education, what important engagement constructs are missing from or underrepresented on NSSE?
2. How does the current NSSE survey address the varying forms of engagement that might be seen by students from different age groups, enrollment patterns, distance education or online programs, majors and specialized curricula, etc.?

Overall Themes

- Address student application of classroom knowledge & peer interaction (*with special attention given to transfers)
- Increase attention on hybrid learning & engagement
- Include items that pay attention to civic engagement
- Define advising success (i.e. it is more than traditional faculty advising, but more in line with a counseling and mentoring approach – as well as peer advising)

Roundtable 3. Considering First-Year and Senior Versions

Jim Cole & Rick Shoup, Facilitators

Prompt Questions:
1. What are the important experiences of first-year students on which NSSE should collect data?
2. What are the important experiences of seniors on which NSSE should collect data?
3. How prevalent are these experiences for first-year students and seniors across all student and institution types?

Overall Themes

- Identify transfer students and better define the first-year distinction as it differs between this group and traditional students straight from high school
- Explore what constitutes a first-year student through the use of specialized demographic items
- Focus on the behaviors of first-year students (i.e. what was available and did they take advantage of it)

Roundtable 4. Focusing on Institutional Practice and Assessment

Jillian Kinzie & Tiffani Butler, Facilitators

Prompt Questions:
1. How has NSSE been most useful to campus assessment activities?
2. What aspects of NSSE institutional assessment practices are most important to preserve or advance?
3. What other measures of student engagement would be helpful to institutional assessment activities?
4. What challenges do campuses currently face in their assessment activities?
5. What updates to the survey or to reports would facilitate campus assessment activities?

Overall Themes

- Identify institutional intent at the onset of survey administration; what are the reasons for participating and how can we help facilitate reachable outcomes
### Roundtable 5. Critiquing NSSE Scales, Benchmarks, Data Quality

*Amber Lambert & Angie Miller, Facilitators*

Prompt Questions:
1. What feedback do you have on the quality and utility of NSSE’s benchmarks and scales?
2. Are there any new benchmarks or scales you would like to see?
3. How should NSSE balance institutions’ needs for consistency in items, scales, and benchmarks, and the drive for continuous improvement of these to keep the survey current, reliable, and valid?
4. What evidence would you like to see about NSSE’s reliability and validity?

**Overall Themes**
- Increase attention on how technology impacts engagement
- Consider changes to benchmarks if they are done to improve the instrument
- Develop more useful information on how to interpret the benchmarks and their psychometric properties

### Roundtable 6. Examining NSSE in the Disciplines

*Allison BrekaLorenz & Kevin Guidry, Facilitators*

Prompt Questions:
1. What can or should NSSE do to better represent engagement in different disciplines? (e.g., core survey items, additional question modules, attention to STEM fields)
2. What can or should NSSE do to help institutions examine their NSSE data at the program or department level?

**Overall Themes**
- Develop more fine-grained discipline/major distinctions for institutions
- Develop diagnostic questions to address the difference between first-year students and seniors
- Create a process for multi-year analysis online

### Roundtable 7. Exploring Teaching and Learning Issues, NSSE and FSSE

*Tom Nelson Laird & Brian McGowan, Facilitators*

Prompt Questions:
1. What are the instructional implications of what you've learned so far from NSSE (and FSSE)?
2. What kinds of student-faculty interactions or collaborations are important to student engagement and learning?
3. How can NSSE and FSSE help faculty teach better?

**Overall Themes**
- Assess the role of pedagogy and engagement as they (possibly) relate to the promotion and tenure process
- Develop more active and collaborative work in the sciences
- Move conversations beyond institutions: specifically, take survey findings and have disciplinary-based association conversations