The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) is a large national survey currently used by 704 institutions, including all of our fellow schools in the University of Hawaii Community College system. It represents a substantial commitment of both time and money by UHCC and it is important to understand what it is designed to do and why the information it provides is important to our campus.

**Background**

To understand why CCSSE is important we need to go back a little, to the year 1983. That was the first year that the *U.S. News & World Report* magazine released its annual “Best Colleges” ranking. It was a simple idea to address a critical need, i.e., how to provide parents and students with a “buyer’s guide” to help them make one of the largest financial purchases they will ever make. Almost overnight, the list revolutionized the way the public perceived college choice and, in so doing, had a powerful effect on the way colleges organized, measured, and presented themselves.

**Students’ Perspective**

The first “Best Colleges” ranking was based solely on peer evaluation, reflecting the results of a survey sent to 1,300 college presidents. Soon, objective measures were added, such as facilities and resources, selectivity (test scores and admissions rates), and faculty achievement. These measures primarily gauged the “inputs” available to colleges. Increasingly, however, people began to question the

**CCSSE at HonCC:**

- CCSSE will select the classes that will participate in the 2016 survey (selection is intended to create a representative sample for validity purposes).
- Our Academic Support Division will work with the campus in distributing and collecting the surveys in Spring 2016.
- CCSSE results should be available in Summer 2016.
HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?

HonCC students are different from their national peers in the following ways, according to CCSSE:

• **We work more closely with our instructors.** HonCC students spend more time working with their instructors on activities outside of the classroom.

• **We learn more about jobs and work.** HonCC students gain more job/work-related knowledge from the college.

• **We gain a better understanding of diversity.** HonCC students gain a better understanding of people from different ethnic groups at the college.

• **Values and ethics matter.** Our students report that the college has a larger impact on their personal code of values and ethics.

• **We face personal challenges to our education.** HonCC students are more worried that full-time jobs and care for dependents will force them to withdraw from classes or school, and receive less support from their immediate families.

• **We feel academically underprepared.** HonCC students feel less confident about their prior academic preparation.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT IS VITAL TO SUCCESS

The results from CCSSE enable us to understand engagement in terms of many aspects of our students' experience—relationships, resources, support, personal development, and challenges. The results also enable us to more fully understand patterns that emerge from other data. For example, the CCSSE data indicates specific areas in which full-time and part-time students diverge in the quality of their experiences, and thus helps us identify actions we can take to improve success for our part-time students. CCSSE demands a lot of time and effort, but by providing a student-centered perspective it is a valuable tool in helping us make Honolulu CC a more student-focused place of learning.