



## **The President's Perspective**

**October 2011**

### **“Community College Survey of Student Engagement—2011 Key Findings”**

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The 2011 Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) key findings for Halifax Community College have now been announced. The CCSSE uses a set of five benchmarks of effective educational practice in community colleges. The benchmarks are as follows:

- Active and Collaborative Learning – Students learn more when they are actively involved in the teaching and learning process and can apply what they learn in different settings.
- Student Effort – Students' own behaviors contribute significantly to their learning and the likelihood of successfully attaining their educational goals.
- Academic Challenge – Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality.
- Student-Faculty Interaction – In general, the more contact students have with their professors, the more likely they are to learn effectively and persist toward graduation.
- Support for Learners – Students perform better and are more satisfied at colleges that provide important support services, positive relationships, and demonstrative commitment to their success.

The five benchmarks encompass 38 engagement items that reflect many of the most important aspects of the student experience on campus. They also contribute mightily to effective teaching and student learning, retention, and educational goal attainment. CCSSE uses a three-year cohort (2009-11) of participating colleges in all core survey results.

The findings show that HCC fares very well when compared to the top performing community colleges that participated in the study.

HCC scored well above the benchmarks in all areas when compared to the 2011 CCSSE cohort. The college also scored above the top performing community colleges in the categories of student effort, student-faculty interaction and support for learners.

From the President's Perspective, I am very pleased with the rating given to our institutions by our full-time and part-time students who participated in the survey. As always, we have some areas that need to improve and we will work on those in the coming semesters. Nonetheless, we are pleased with our progress in cultivating connections and engaging our students in the classroom and in out-of class activities.

If you would like to review the report, please visit the link, <http://halifaxcc.edu/President-M/Documents/studentengagement2011.pdf>. Feel free to send me an e-mail message at [president@halifaxcc.edu](mailto:president@halifaxcc.edu) with your thoughts or ideas. Also, to learn about our current programs—stop by campus, call us at (252) 536-HCC1 (4221), or visit us online at [www.halifaxcc.edu](http://www.halifaxcc.edu).

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