



FORTNIGHT

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A Communiqué focusing on topics related to Outcomes Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness, and Institutional Research produced jointly by the Office of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) at the College of Staten Island/The City University of New York

WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. According to the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, the term is derived from the Old English *feorwertyne niht*, meaning "fourteen nights."

Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle which is distributed online to the campus community. Our prior issues are available on the Office of the Associate Provost website (www.library.csi.cuny.edu/assessment) which is now in development. If you missed earlier communiqués, we would be happy to forward copies to you.

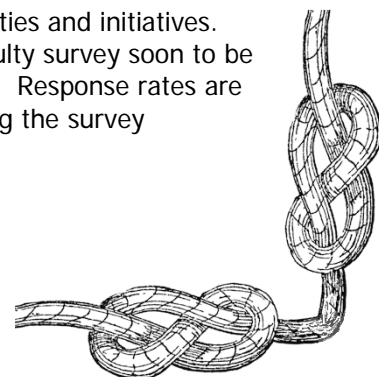
NSSE IS HERE! NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INVITATIONS SENT TO CSI STUDENTS

The first wave of email invitations was sent from the Center for Research on Post-Secondary Education at the University of Indiana – Bloomington to selected members of our freshman and senior classes on February 23 who have the opportunity to respond to the 2009 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). As noted in the last issue of **FORTNIGHT**, other CUNY senior colleges will be joining campuses nationwide in implementing the survey, which offers insights into the activities, opportunities, and experiences that provide and strengthen bonds between students and their post-secondary institution.

In addition to the standard NSSE instrument, CUNY colleges are participating in this year's Writing Practices Consortium. Universities that opt to be part of the consortium have indicated that they want student responses to additional questions that explore in greater depth types of writing assignments students receive, techniques that students use when addressing an assignment (e.g., outlining), feedback from instructors, and other writing-related experiences (e.g., submitting work for publication).

As we noted in the last issue of **Fortnight** and in faculty emails, the College is not permitted to contact students individually about the survey outside of the invitations that are sent from NSSE; we are, however, in the midst of a general awareness-building campaign to convey the importance of the survey as a feedback mechanism and planning tool. The survey will remain open for several weeks, as students receive follow-up invitations on their CIX email accounts. We will be able to access response updates from NSSE during this time period. Please continue to make general announcements in class about the survey and call students' attention to the "Nessie sea monster" promotional images around campus as further reminders.

The NSSE results from the standard questionnaire and the additional Writing Practices Consortium items will provide the College with invaluable information for programming, advisement, campus activities and initiatives. They are also useful for our Middle States self-study. When coupled with the companion faculty survey soon to be open, we will gain an understanding of both perspectives of the student campus experience. Response rates are key, so we will provide survey updates and reminders in issues of **Fortnight** distributed during the survey windows.



CSI ANNUAL DAY OF ASSESSMENT

Planning for the Annual Day of Assessment, scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2009, from 9 am to 4 pm in the Green Dolphin Lounge, is well underway. The event, which will feature presentations and activities representative of diverse assessment efforts on campus, will be the sixth event of its kind at CSI. The Office of Academic Affairs, the Education Department, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and LaGuardia's Center for Teaching and Learning (ePortfolios) will be featured during the day, making the conference of interest to a broad audience. Please mention the date to colleagues at other campuses and institutions – they are more than welcome. We request that you respond to Robin Cavagnaro in the Testing Office at ext. 2360 or via email at cavagnaro@mail.csi.cuny.edu. Lunch will be served, so please note any dietary restrictions when you make your reservation.

CAMPUS UPDATES

Division of Student Affairs

The role of the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, new initiatives like [FORTNIGHT](#) and the Associate Provost's website, as well as Middle States reaccreditation were the focus of Susan Holak's presentation, "Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness at CSI: Status Report (Early Spring 2009)," to the Division of Student Affairs Professional Staff meeting on February 19. In particular, the audience of more than forty directors and staff members focused on Middle States Standard 9, which speaks to student affairs services, their availability to diverse populations, publicized procedures, and ongoing assessment.

Academic Departments : Modern Languages

The Department of Modern Languages has announced that its Departmental Assessment Committee includes Professors Oswaldo Zavala (Gen Ed), Giancarlo Lombardi (Course and Standing), Nuria Morado (Curriculum), Gerry Milligan, Dorey Houle, and Jane Marcus-Delgado. Dorey Houle has been named as the department's liaison to the College-wide Assessment Committee.

Staff Offices: Career and Scholarship Center

Caryl Watkins and Joanne Hollan who are Director and Assistant Director, respectively, of the Career and Scholarship Center, shared their office mission statement and data collection instruments with Susan Holak, Warrick Bell, and Barbara Cohen on February 4. The importance of the Office's partnership with Academic Affairs was highlighted, particularly when the conversation turned to the need for faculty to participate on panels to select, coach, and assist students who may be eligible for prestigious national fellowships. As the College continues to evolve in its mission and increases its presence in national academic venues, there will be increasing need for this type of collaboration.

The Library

Chief Librarian Wilma Jones met with Susan Holak, Warrick Bell, and Barbara Cohen on February 11 to discuss recent library initiatives, data needs, and Middle States standards. The Library was one of the focuses of the Middle States reaccreditation visit in 2000 and the subsequent Periodic Review in 2006; in particular, visiting evaluators noted that the College's collection was small in comparison to those at institutions of CSI's size and called for increased library instruction across the curriculum. Significant additions to the monograph collection, more electronic resources, and streamlined inter-library loan services have been implemented since 2006 to meet the needs of the CSI community and respond to evaluators' suggestions. Interim Associate Provost Holak is looking forward to meeting with the library faculty later this spring to discuss topics related to institutional effectiveness and Middle States.

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

The fair trade movement is gaining much attention in the UK, particularly in schools and on campuses. "Fairtrade Fortnight" is scheduled for February 23-March 9, 2009. peopleandplanet.org/tradejustice

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by **March 10, 2009** for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.

