SURVEY OF THE USE OF DATA
TO IMPROVE STUDENT SUCCESS

SUMMARY REPORT ON SURVEY RESPONSES BY FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS AT MOUNTAIN EMPIRE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Community College Research Center
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September 2008

This report summarizes the responses to the survey of data use by full-time faculty and administrators that your college participated in last winter as part of Achieving the Dream. The mean responses from your college are compared to those of the other Achieving the Dream colleges in your state and the other colleges that joined the initiative in your round.

The following are statistics on the survey response rates from your college and the comparison institutions.

	MECC	**Range for AtD Colleges in Virginia**	**Range for Round 1 AtD Colleges**
Faculty response rate	85%	71% - 85%	37% - 85%
Administrator response rate	91%	68% - 91%	49% - 92%

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Questions on Use of Data by Faculty and Administrators

How often do you review or use the following types of information in your job?

SCALE:	*Never*	*Less than every 3 years*	*Once every 2-3 years*	*Once a year*	*2-3 times a year*	*4-5 times a year*	*6 or more times a year*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	Mean Responses*					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Type of Information	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
Placement test scores	5.70	4.15	5.41	3.98	4.42	4.15
Enrollment data	5.97	6.10	5.72	5.39	5.36	5.80
Grades	6.05	4.10	6.00	4.42	5.59	4.60
Course evaluations	5.35	3.53	5.09	3.24	5.00	3.56
Measures of student learning other than grades	3.97	3.65	3.85	3.58	3.63	3.78
Retention rates	4.75	5.20	4.28	4.45	4.11	4.55
Graduation rates	4.53	5.05	4.22	4.26	3.76	4.36
Transfer rates	3.43	4.25	3.10	3.34	2.96	3.49
Percentage of students successfully completing developmental ed.	4.13	3.89	3.73	3.73	3.24	3.64
Financial aid	3.31	3.95	3.02	3.66	2.82	3.64
College budget and finances	4.67	5.55	3.60	5.00	3.43	5.35
Results from external surveys	3.28	3.47	3.09	3.57	3.01	3.82
Focus groups or other qual. data	3.30	4.11	3.02	3.20	2.91	3.46
Research by the college	4.55	5.10	3.97	4.04	3.54	4.47
Outside research on effective practices	4.13	5.05	4.34	4.31	4.31	4.50
Data on student achievement gaps	3.21	3.95	3.31	3.51	3.26	3.70
Information broken down by students' race or ethnicity	2.73	3.10	3.11	4.09	3.08	4.26
Information broken down by students' income or financial aid	2.95	4.10	2.75	3.82	2.54	3.59

* "Not Applicable" responses treated as missing.

In your role as a faculty member/administrator, rate the usefulness of the following types of information for making decisions. (Faculty respondents were asked to rate the usefulness "for making decisions about how you design and teach your courses.")

SCALE:	*Not at All Useful*			*Somewhat Useful*			*Very Useful*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	Mean Responses*					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Type of Information	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
Placement test scores	4.87	5.29	5.17	5.72	4.64	5.63
Enrollment data	4.82	6.30	5.03	5.94	4.71	6.18
Grades	5.03	5.31	5.36	5.30	5.12	5.39
Course evaluations	5.46	5.00	5.54	5.40	5.43	5.43
Measures of student learning other than grades	4.24	5.56	4.73	5.65	4.53	5.66
Retention rates	4.95	5.68	5.00	5.90	4.84	5.97
Graduation rates	4.80	5.63	4.90	5.95	4.52	5.87
Transfer rates	3.72	5.26	4.14	5.62	4.14	5.42
Percentage of students successfully completing developmental ed.	4.36	5.61	4.47	5.86	4.23	5.46
Financial aid	3.29	5.10	3.34	5.26	3.23	5.14
College budget and finances	4.26	6.10	3.99	6.12	3.70	6.10
Results from external surveys	3.14	4.74	3.66	5.05	3.67	5.12
Focus groups or other qual. data	3.53	5.16	3.92	5.22	3.88	5.12
Research by the college	4.45	5.75	4.45	5.80	4.14	5.65
Outside research on effective practices	4.43	5.10	4.69	5.25	4.83	5.28
Data on student achievement gaps	4.18	5.21	4.44	5.52	4.28	5.37
Information broken down by students' race or ethnicity	2.20	3.63	3.32	5.00	3.38	5.15
Information broken down by students' income or financial aid	3.11	5.25	3.48	5.03	3.27	4.94

* "Not Applicable" responses treated as missing.

How much do you use data and research on students in your decisions about the following? (Question asked of faculty only.)

SCALE:	*Not at All*			*Some*			*A Lot*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Type of Decisions	**Mean Responses***		
	MECC Faculty	**Faculty at AtD Colleges in Virginia**	**Faculty at Round 1 AtD Colleges**
Curriculum	5.10	5.02	4.54
Teaching practices	5.32	5.45	5.01
Advising students	5.55	5.62	4.97
Identifying students who are struggling academically	5.32	5.33	4.86

* "Don't Know" responses treated as missing.

How often have you participated in organized discussions at the college on the following issues?

SCALE:	*Never*	*Less than every 3 years*	*Once every 2-3 years*	*Once a year*	*2-3 times a year*	*4-5 times a year*	*6 or more times a year*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Issue	**Mean Responses**					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
	Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
Improving academic achievement or closing achievement gaps	5.63	5.10	4.87	4.24	4.57	4.62
Academic needs or performance of students of color	2.38	2.65	3.72	3.92	3.57	4.28
Academic needs or performance of low-income students	4.68	4.90	4.27	4.12	3.69	4.27

Questions on Accessibility of Data and Perceived Barriers to Data Use

When I need information about groups of students (i.e., more than one student at a time), I use the following sources. (Respondents were asked to circle all that apply.)

Source	Percentage of Respondent Group Indicating They Use the Given Source					
	MECC		AtD Colleges in Virginia		Round 1 AtD Colleges	
	Faculty	Admin.	Faculty	Admin.	Faculty	Admin.
Searches using the college's student information system	57%	60%	54%	32%	39%	37%
Data from the college's website or fact book	47%	70%	37%	36%	32%	46%
Reports distributed by the college's institutional research (IR) office or other departments	60%	65%	37%	42%	32%	50%
Requests to the IR or information technology (IT) staff	52%	80%	39%	43%	31%	51%
My department's database	8%	15%	22%	19%	23%	24%
State databases or research reports	5%	45%	7%	25%	9%	31%
I generally do not need information about groups of students	10%	5%	27%	24%	32%	21%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

SCALE:

Strongly Disagree			*Neither Agree nor Disagree*			*Strongly Agree*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	Mean Responses*					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
	Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
The data in the college's student information system are generally accurate and error free.	4.89	5.41	5.39	5.12	4.91	4.92
The data I need are generally available in a user-friendly format.	4.95	5.45	5.28	4.77	4.73	4.52
The college's institutional research staff is responsive to requests for information.	5.68	6.30	5.79	5.97	5.19	5.49
The college's institutional research staff is adequately staffed for the college's information and research needs.	5.13	4.83	5.10	3.94	4.51	3.87
The reports and other information the college provides to administrators and faculty are typically clear and easy to follow.	4.93	5.75	5.34	5.38	4.85	5.13
I am able to obtain the information I need in a timely fashion.	5.22	6.00	5.43	5.01	4.88	4.68
The research reports and other information the college provides to faculty are generally helpful to our work as teachers.	5.07		4.82		4.49	

* "Don't Know" and "Not Applicable" responses treated as missing.

I generally do not use data and research on students for the following reasons.

SCALE:						
Strongly Disagree			*Neither Agree nor Disagree*			*Strongly Agree*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	Mean Responses					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Reason	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
I am too busy.	3.10	1.95	3.64	2.31	3.49	2.26
It is not part of my responsibilities at the college.	2.28	1.95	2.71	2.95	2.70	2.78
I do not have the research skills to understand and use data and research.	2.38	2.45	2.92	2.28	2.77	2.20
I do not trust the data that are available.	2.80	2.75	2.85	2.56	2.91	2.47
The data that are available are not relevant to my role.	2.78	2.65	3.01	3.36	3.07	2.99

Have you been involved in any training or other professional development in the past year related to the following topics?

	Percentage of Respondent Group Indicating "Yes"					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Topic	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
Institutional research and/or data analysis	38%	45%	38%	40%	37%	49%
Program evaluation and/or assessment	50%	45%	55%	46%	57%	54%

Questions about Achieving the Dream

How much do you know about your college's involvement in the Achieving the Dream initiative?

SCALE:	*Nothing at All*			*Some*			*A Lot*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses					
MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
5.70	6.10	5.28	5.34	4.51	5.30

Have you been involved in Achieving the Dream? If so, in what capacities?

	Percentage of Respondents Indicating "Yes"					
	MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
	Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
Member of "core team," "data team" or other AtD committee	60%	75%	37%	46%	24%	43%
Involved in implementing one of college's AtD strategies or projects	60%	60%	52%	55%	36%	48%

Each of the following statements presents two opposing viewpoints. Circle the number on the scale that best captures your view. The strongest opinions are represented by a "1" or "7."

SCALE:	*The leadership of this college has not been at all clear about the goals of Achieving the Dream.*					*The leadership of this college has been very clear about the goals of Achieving the Dream.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
6.10	6.05	5.74	5.40	4.87	5.40

* "Don't Know" responses treated as missing.

SCALE:	*Achieving the Dream will quickly fade when the grant ends.*					*Achieving the Dream will result in lasting changes in the operations and culture of this college.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
4.14	4.89	4.83	5.47	4.48	5.41

* "Don't Know" responses treated as missing.

SCALE:	*The leadership of this college has not made an explicit commitment to using data to make decisions.*					*The leadership of this college has made a clear commitment to using data to make decisions.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
5.97	6.45	5.85	5.75	5.17	5.93

* ”Don’t Know” responses treated as missing.

SCALE:	*Administrators, faculty and staff at this college rarely collaborate to improve academic programs and services.*					*Administrators, faculty and staff at this college work collaboratively to improve academic programs and services.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		**AtD Colleges in Virginia**		**Round 1 AtD Colleges**	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
5.30	5.85	5.23	5.32	4.94	5.42

* ”Don’t Know” responses treated as missing.

SCALE:	*It is never appropriate for the college to give extra services or help to students on the basis of race, ethnicity, or income.*					*It is often appropriate for the college to give extra services or help to students on the basis of race, ethnicity, or income.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		AtD Colleges in Virginia		Round 1 AtD Colleges	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
5.51	6.21	5.43	5.67	5.32	5.66

* "Don't Know" responses treated as missing.

SCALE:	*My colleagues and I need to try different approaches to help low-achieving students to succeed.*					*My colleagues and I are doing all we can to help low-achieving students.*
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mean Responses*					
MECC		AtD Colleges in Virginia		Round 1 AtD Colleges	
Faculty	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**	**Faculty**	**Admin.**
4.20	3.89	4.50	3.57	4.36	3.51

* "Don't Know" responses treated as missing.