

Survey attempts to improve on BC experience

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Staff Writer

Since the spring 2009 semester, BC has been administering a student poll called the National Survey of Student Engagement.

The NSSE is a survey that collects information at hundreds of four-year colleges and universities about student participation in programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development. The results provide an estimate of how undergraduates spend their time and what they gain from attending college.

Items on the NSSE represent “good practices” in undergraduate education. That is, they reflect

behaviors by students and institutions that are associated with desired outcomes of college.

Through the data collected with survey results Brevard College will seek to provide undergraduates with a better college experience.

In an email sent by Dean Holland of Brevard College, he described the goals of the study in detail. “The survey looks at the level of student engagement for first year and senior year students,” said Holland

He continued, “In looking at this we can get a sense of how well students perceive the institution; how well we are doing at engaging them; and we can use these results to strategically consider where we should allocate

resources in building programs.”

This study is not simply focused on this one college. The survey is conducted each year on more than 1,400 campuses across the U.S. and Canada.

These kinds of studies are likely to assemble useful data not just for college administrations, but social psychologists, and rising freshmen.

However, the limiting factor for its usefulness will be how the individual intuitions choose to interpret the data they receive.

The best thing for students to do is to take the study and be as honest as possible, because the study exists solely to make the BC undergraduate experience better.

Singin' (and talkin') the blues ... and gospel ... and jazz ...



Civil rights expert Timothy Tyson spoke about the influence of African American culture on the world Thursday night as students, faculty, and community members gathered in the Porter Center for the annual Grace Creech West Lecture.

The presentation, titled “Blood Done Sign Our Names: Blues, Jazz, and Gospel Impulses in the Age of Obama,” covered the history of African Americans from the colonial era slave trade to the present day.

“This whole world is like a big minstrel show echoing the culture of the Afro-American,” said Tyson.

Joining Tyson was gospel singer Mary D. Williams, who spoke about African American heritage and sang traditional spirituals, even inviting the audience to sing along.

Tyson is best known for his 2004 book, “Blood Done Sign My Name.” He is a visiting professor of American Christianity and southern culture at Duke University.

Check out next week’s Clarion for more about Tyson and Williams’ visit to BC.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

Campus Activities Board: Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Underground.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes(FCA): Meets every Tuesday at 9 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center.

Student Government Association: Meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Reserve Dining Room.

Team - Mobilizing Opportunities for Volunteer Engagement (T-M.O.V.E.): Meets every Sunday at 7 p.m. in the AEC Conference Room. Come if you’re

interested in community service.

BC Greens: Thursday at 8:30 p.m. in MG 113.

BC Spiritual Life Presents Common Grounds: Monday night at 8 p.m. in the Spiritual Life Center. Have questions? Contact Brian Burgess at burgessbd@brevard.edu.

Black History Forum: Monday, Feb. 21 with local Brevard Community Members at 6:30 p.m. in the Francis Pavilion of the Porter Center

Want your event in the Clarion?

We need to know about it!

Send us information at: Clarion@brevard.edu