

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

In the spring of 2005, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) participated in The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). CCSSE, pronounced “cessie,” is a national research initiative designed to provide data on learning-centered indicators of quality and

success for both community and technical colleges. Results of this study will be used to identify areas of institutional strength and weakness, benchmark performance, and monitor improvement efforts.

## Purpose

The survey instrument (Appendix A), The Community College Student Report (CCSR), is a versatile, research-based tool with multiple uses. The CCSR specifically examines both institutional practice and student behaviors especially related to retention and learning. In particular, the CCSR instrument gathers information about good educational practices, specifically (a) how students spend their time, (b) retention and risk factors, (c) how they view the campus environment, (d) their perceptions of educational and personal growth, and (e) the extent to which faculty and staff engage students in learning.

For the purpose of showing comparisons, the 257 participating colleges are separated into four groups, small, medium, large and extra large,

based on total enrollment. For the purpose of identifying institutional successes and challenges, comparison is made between WITC and other colleges in the Nation. When this comparison is made, WITC is grouped with 150 other colleges that are in the small group.

Throughout this report, differences between 2002, 2003, and 2005 results are displayed to show areas where WITC has experienced improvement since 2003 and 2005 areas that require additional improvement.

A listing of all 257 participating colleges, and the four comparison groups can be found in Appendix B.