

# National Survey of Student Engagement

## Executive Snapshot 2008

University of Detroit Mercy

### Dear Colleague:

This is a summary of some key findings from your institution's performance on the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement. We hope you can use this information to stimulate discussion on your campus about how to improve the undergraduate experience at University of Detroit Mercy.

Sincerely,  
Alexander C. McCormick  
Director, National Survey of Student Engagement

### Are All Students at University of Detroit Mercy Equally Engaged?

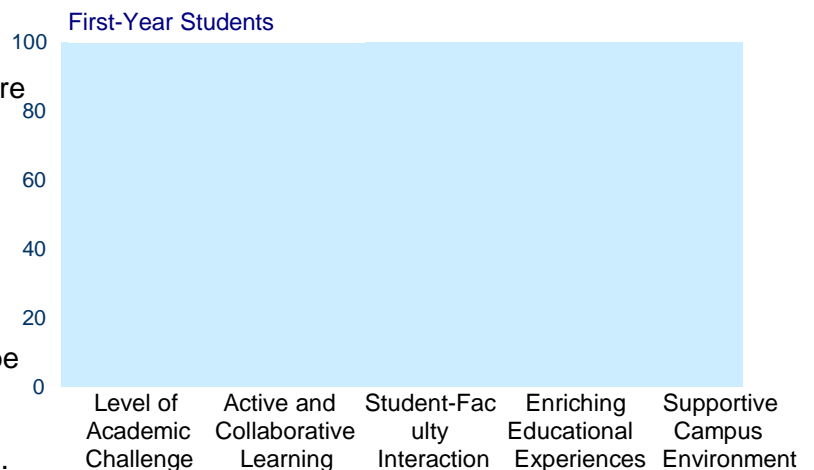
Quality in U.S. higher education is often considered an institutional attribute, as if one college offers a uniformly better or worse education than another. Yet, a robust finding from decades of research on college students holds that student experiences and outcomes are more varied among students within institutions than between institutions.

In this year's annual report NSSE urges institutions to "look within," calling attention to the need to examine variation in the student experience at your institution. Your (hypothetical) average student does not describe all students and groups on your campus.

The adjacent figures illustrate this phenomenon. We plotted your students' NSSE benchmark scores in a "box and whiskers" chart (see key). Here you can see the range and variation of your scores (whiskers), as well as where the mid-range or normal scores fell (box). Note the dispersion of your scores. The greater the range, the more varied the student experience is at your institution.

Improving the experience of your least engaged students may be the most effective way to raise your benchmark scores and improve your overall institutional quality. Even high-performing institutions have much to learn by examining

### Variation in NSSE Benchmark Scores by Class at University of Detroit Mercy



Key



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |



