

## Survey Monkey Survey Invitation to Faculty to Participate: Fall 2012

Once again this past fall, Black Hawk College participated in an exciting national survey research project, the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (*SENSE*). The project is part of the Center for Community College Student Engagement and the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin.

Administered during the fourth and fifth class weeks of the recent fall academic term, *SENSE* focuses on institutional practices and student behaviors in the earliest weeks of college. As research shows, understanding students' earliest experiences can help us enhance student learning, retention, and success.

Survey data will be collected, analyzed, and reported back to BHC, further supporting our College's efforts to understand the critical early student experience and to improve practices in ways that will increase student success in the first college year.

The survey was administered in classes randomly selected by the Center to ensure a representative sample and to preserve the integrity of the survey results.

Black Hawk College is intent on being a leader in higher education, and this survey can assist us in improving course completion rates, as well as the rate of student persistence to the completion of their educational goals.

To increase faculty participation in this process, the Center has developed a **SENSE Faculty Predictions Exercise**. This exercise was presented to the Common Sense Committee for their recommendation on how best to use this assessment tool. The Common Sense Committee recommended giving the exercise to all full-time faculty.

The tool is very simple. The tool asks a faculty member to predict the responses of our students for a series of questions. For example, predict the percentage of students who responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to the following question, "The very first time I came to this college I felt welcome." After completing the exercise, the College can compare faculty response to those of the students and identify gaps and alignments, which can use to facilitate discussions. The Common Sense Committee will be responsible for reviewing the identified gaps and alignments and make recommendations for improvements.

The Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness will use Survey Monkey to administer the exercise. I would encourage all of you to complete the exercise in order to help College administrators, faculty, and staff increase their understanding of today's typical college student.