



The Multi-Institutional Study of Leadership (MSL) is pleased to announce the addition of a new coalition for the 2012 data college *focused specifically on students' experiences and learning outcomes associated with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines*. This will provide a rich, shared dataset that allows for benchmarking as well as the ability to isolate and compare the unique experiences of STEM students within a particular institution with their peers at the same school, STEM peers at other Coalition schools, and national norms. Additionally, the Coalition adds a set of custom questions to more deeply examine the STEM context. The coalition is being coordinated by Marlena Martinez Love (marlenam@mit.edu) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The MSL is an international research program examining the influences of higher education on college students' leadership outcomes (e.g., efficacy, complex cognitive skills). The variables in the MSL reflect measures currently unavailable in other studies or federal data sets. Recent research has established that leadership learning has a direct relationship to academic persistence and the particular importance of this for women and minorities in STEM majors. Many participating campuses use the MSL to build off and supplement other survey research. Institutions use results for a broad range of activities ranging from program development and assessment to accreditation and institutional benchmarking.

Right now is a particularly exciting time for the MSL as we are competing for a National Science Foundation grant that would fund annual, longitudinal follow-ups with science and engineering students through 2015. If the grant is awarded schools participating in 2012 will be invited to participate again in 2015 at a significantly reduced rate. Additionally, we will generate specific reports tailored to the science and engineering context to aid in translating results to practice.

Registration for the MSL is currently underway and over 50 schools have already committed to participation in 2012. This includes 10 institutions from among the 50 schools producing the largest number of STEM graduates nationally. To date more than 175 schools and 225,000 college students have participated in the research. A few key points about MSL include:

- Campuses receive a comprehensive report with results from the study including benchmarking with peer institutions and support from the research team to help translate results to practice. The reports also allow for comparisons between science and engineering majors and their non-science peers.
- The MSL measures leadership outcomes as well as aspects of the college environment that influence them (e.g., campus climate, mentoring relationships, research with faculty, internship experiences).
- The MSL offers a measure of outcome change over time for evaluating the impact of collegiate experiences over the course of four years.

Please note that the MSL collects data on a three year cycle, so the next opportunity after 2012 will not be until 2015. **The standard fee for participating in the MSL is \$3600.** Indicative of the broad impact MSL results can have on campus, participation is often done in partnership with other campus departments including: institutional research, student affairs divisions, and the provosts' offices. Small scholarships are available for schools unable to support the total cost of participation.

Questions can be directed to Dr. John Dugan, Assistant Professor of Higher Education at Loyola University Chicago, via email at jduga1@luc.edu. You can enroll your institution by visiting the MSL website at www.leadershipstudy.net and clicking on "Ready to Enroll."