

2006 CHERC Forum for Institutional Research

Exploring Mission, Vision and Values at Catholic Colleges and Universities

**DePaul University
March 26 & 27, 2006**

Tentative Program as of February 21, 2006

Sunday, March 26

Research Symposium, 3-5 pm

Fr. J. Patrick Murphy, Director of the Public Services Graduate Program and the William and Mary Pat Hay Vincent de Paul Leadership Project at DePaul University, will address work he has been doing on leadership and values in higher education from a Vincentian perspective.

Joseph R. Ferrari, Professor of Psychology and Editor of the Journal of Prevention & Intervention in the Community at DePaul, will present an overview of his studies on the development and use of instruments and scales [the DeVI for students and the DMV for administration] to measure perceptions related to institutional mission and values. He will discuss the subscales of these measures, their psychometric properties and some of the factor analysis work that have gone into them.

Richard Pulkamp, Director of Institutional Research at Xavier University (OH), will discuss assessment of outcomes related to mission and ministry at Xavier University.

Richard A. Yanikoski, President of Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, will discuss his thoughts on research that is needed on Catholic higher education and how CHERC may contribute in this area both through its own activity and in collaboration with others.

Dinner, 5-7 pm

CHERC Organizational Meeting, 7-8 pm

Monday, March 27

Breakfast, 7-8:30 am

Welcome from DePaul and the Vincentian Higher Education Fund, 9 am

Plenary Session, 9:15 am

Drs. Richard Meister and Charles Strain of DePaul, will discuss *Catholic Higher Education and its Relationship to the Church, Society and the Academy*. Meister, a Professor of History and former Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Strain, a Professor of Religious Studies and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, are collaborating on a book on this topic.

Research Presentations, 10:30-noon

At this time, a number of graduate students at DePaul and representatives from other CHERC member institutions will have the opportunity to discuss research that they have been doing on topics related to mission, vision and values at Catholic colleges and universities. Topics scheduled to date include:

Predictors of Institutional Success: Do Perceptions of Mission Differ by Traditional and Non-Traditional Student Type?

Shaun Cowman, MA

Visiting Instructor of Psychology &

Ph.D. candidate, Community Psychology Program

This presentation discusses how student type (traditional/nontraditional) may influence student perceptions of an institution's mission. Overall, both student types were related to perception of mission. Significant predictors included age and number of hours engaged in on-campus activities. Implications for institutions of higher education to include nontraditional students in the current institutional climate will be discussed.

Giving Students a Voice: Mission and Reality

Jessica Velcoff

Ph.D. candidate, Community Psychology Program

Do undergraduates choose a university based on how well the schools mission matches their personal values? If so, it is essential to understand whether student expectations are met. The present study discusses the responses of 388 students to open-ended questions, an element of a larger on-line survey. Responses indicate a variety of mixed viewpoints. Themes seemed largely dependent on whether the university was seen as having upheld the values the student's initially perceived as intersecting their own.

Transfer Students versus Native Students:

Exploring Differences Between Mission Perceptions and Pro-social Engagement

Jaclyn Cameron

Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Research &

MS candidate, Masters of Science in Psychology Program

Higher education is a primary influence on the development and promotion of values and civic responsibility in students. Involvement, engagement, and integration into the institution are predictors of strong perceptions of the school's mission, visions and values. Transfer students are generally less involved, engaged, and integrated and have a harder time

identifying with the campus community than native students. This study will compare differences among native, horizontal transfer, and vertical transfer students' perceptions of the mission statement and levels of engagement in pro-social behaviors on and off campus.

The Impact of Perceived Institutional Atmosphere and School Sense of Community on Student Motivation for Public Service

Judah Viola, MA

*Project Director, Chicago Public Schools Project &
Ph.D. candidate, Community Psychology Program*

This presentation discusses two related studies that explored how students' perception of their school's environment and *sense of community* may be related to their *pro-social engagement* and motivation for public service. Students' perception of the school environment, their school sense of community, and future public service motivation, are interconnected. Implications for institutions of higher learning concerning facilitating and promoting student participation in community enhancement and social justice will be discussed.

Joe Pettit from Georgetown University will summarize work he has been doing on *how colleges and universities are assuming their Catholic and congregational mission-related activities*.

Lunch, noon

Roundtable Discussions, 1-2 pm

Discussions of research and topics of interest including external reporting and who does it, getting it all done – right now! and other topics.

CHERC Organizational Update, 2 pm

Closing and adjournment, 3 pm

******* Additional presentations for both Sunday and Monday's sessions are *****
most welcome as are additional topics for Monday afternoon's
roundtable discussions.**