ABOUT CSRDE

The Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange (CSRDE) at the University of Oklahoma has coordinated a data sharing consortium to provide 4-year institutions with access to retention and graduation benchmarks since 1994. More recently, the consortium has expanded its focus to serve the retention benchmarking needs of 2-year institutions. It is coordinated by the Center for Institutional Data Exchange and Analysis, and is composed of approximately 450 member institutions committed to sharing retention data. This cooperative data sharing activity enables members to have access to comprehensive, timely benchmarking data, not easily available through public sources. Data is treated confidentially and is shared only among member institutions.

The data sharing activities take the form of annual retention surveys of aggregate cohort level retention and graduation data and relevant institutional and student characteristics. For the 4-year institutions, the main retention study tracks first-time full-time freshmen, and members may also participate in our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) study and the Community College Transfer Student study at no extra cost. For the 2-year institutions, a beta survey which tracks the retention and graduation of full-time and part-time degree/certificate seeking students is now available.

BENEFITS OF CSRDE MEMBERSHIP

Comprehensive Benchmarks. We provide benchmarks so you can evaluate how changes in institutional policies affect retention of cohorts. The 4-year institutions will be following the progress of the freshman classes of 1998 through 2004 in next year’s survey, and will track the continuation and graduation of these freshman cohorts from their freshman year through their 7th year of attendance. The 2-year institutions will be following the progress of the 1999 through 2004 cohorts, and tracking the continuation and graduation of these cohorts from their first year through their 6th year of attendance in our community college beta survey next year.

“The annual CSRDE Report, which is both thorough and accessible, has proven to be an invaluable tool for our benchmarking and planning purposes. With varied report views, including breakdowns by university type, Carnegie Classification, and selectivity, the CSRDE Report is easily adapted to answer a wide range of student retention questions. As CSRDE members, we have an increased capability to set retention goals and assess our accomplishments.” Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI

Annual National Symposium on Student Retention. Our first annual conference will be held October 3-5, 2005 in Dallas, Texas. This will be a great chance for college and university executives, institutional researchers, student services personnel, faculty and staff to explore student retention issues in conference sessions and through networking opportunities. CSRDE members receive a discount on their registration fee.
**Efficient Reporting.** We collect data from our members in the spring and return the Annual Reports within 10 weeks. Complimentary peer reports are available shortly thereafter upon request.

“The CSRDE staff have worked hard to keep improving the submission system. Moving from paper reports to electronic spreadsheets already populated with previous year’s data was the first significant step. The recent changes in the process for submitting data electronically through their secure web site significantly streamlined the process. CSRDE staff has always been, continues to be, very responsive to requests and questions.” Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

**Sharing of Best Practices.** The CSRDE encourages sharing of best practices. A $1000 Best Practices Award will be given away at our National Student Retention Conference in October 2005.

**Maximize your Resources.** Many schools don’t have research staff to pull together comparative retention and graduation data, but all institutions have administrators who need this information. That’s where we can help.

“While some graduation data can be obtained through the federal government or US News, it is not nearly as comprehensive as data provided through the CSRDE. Benchmarking is becoming a huge part of Institutional Research but the cost (in time and effort) of gathering this type of information on my own through a variety of sources greatly exceeds the cost of the membership.” Roosevelt University, Chicago

**Networking and Communicating.** We maintain regular communication with our members. This includes quarterly newsletters with information on the latest issues in retention, as well as monthly e-news. Our annual conference and best practices award offer great networking opportunities.

**Context for Retention and Graduation rates.** We provide you with data for institutions that are similar to yours so that you can make more meaningful comparisons.

“Alverno College finds the data from CSRDE helpful in benchmarking our retention efforts to other colleges with student bodies that are similar to ours.” Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI

“The CSRDE report will enable us to benchmark ourselves with similar community colleges nationwide. It will allow us to identify institutions who are excelling in retention programming, helping us to expand our existing network of exemplary practitioners.” Orange County Community College, NY

**Tracking trends.** Since we collect data for seven cohort years in our 4-year institutions, and six cohort years in our 2-year institutions, our reports provide a historical view on retention and graduation trends of students. Our 4-year institution data looks at first-year through seventh-year retention, as well as four-year, five-year and six-year graduation. The 2-year institution data looks at first-year through sixth-year retention, as well as one-year through five-year graduation.

*Since Evergreen has participated in the CSRDE for ten years, we now have enough data compiled to conduct analysis of student outcomes across multiple cohorts. By calculating average retention and graduation rates for ethnic subgroups across multiple years, we were able to control for relatively large annual fluctuations in the measures due to small numbers of students in some groups.* The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA

**Answers at your fingertips from a source you can trust.** We are the University of Oklahoma and have supported the Consortium for Student Retention Data Exchange for over 10 years. As colleagues in higher education, we understand the importance of accurate and timely data. Receive a 100+ page annual report containing tables and analysis of retention data reported by the member institutions contributing to
the main retention study. In addition, receive a complimentary peer report, as well as other special reports upon request.

“The CSRDE Retention Report provides the best source of retention data for higher education administrators, researchers and faculty. The information is accurate, timely and easy to use. Dakota State University utilizes the peer report to determine if the University meets the benchmarks set by its Institutional Effectiveness Committee.” Dakota State University, Madison, SD

Friendly, helpful support. We really enjoy working with our members. We are available to help with your data questions at any time. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please don’t hesitate to ask.

“I’ve found the CSRDE data to be very useful and timely as our institution analyzes retention and graduation rates in light of those at other colleges and universities. Comparisons with institutions of like size and focus have proven to be especially valuable. The CSRDE staff have been extremely helpful and easy to work with as we pull together this important information to help us better serve our students.” George Fox University, Newberg, OR