

## **CCSSE 2015 Survey of Student Engagement at MJC: First-Generation Student Responses**

### Introduction

The Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) is a nationwide survey of community college students that is coordinated by the Community College Leadership Program at the University of Texas at Austin. This survey is administered every other year at MJC. The most recent survey was conducted in 2015.

### Responses by First-Generation Students at MJC

The survey includes questions which determine whether a student can be considered a “first-generation student”. Survey results were analyzed in order to identify topics and issues of greatest importance to first-generation respondents. In total, first-generation students accounted for 42% of total student respondents to the survey.

### The MJC Difference: Notable Accomplishments of MJC Education for First-Generation Students

First-generation survey respondents showed higher levels of satisfaction with several aspects of their MJC educational experience when compared with non-first-generation respondents. Among the items with greatest satisfaction for first-generation respondents are the following:

- MJC’s emphasis on providing financial support needed to afford education
- MJC’s emphasis on using computers in academic work
- The quality of relationships on campus with other students
- Overall levels of satisfaction with the entire educational experience at MJC

Items for which MJC education was seen by first-generation student respondents as making a significant difference compared with non-first-generation respondents:

- Support for acquiring a broad general education
- Support for acquiring job or work-related knowledge and skills
- Support for helping students learn to write clearly and effectively
- Support for helping students to speak clearly and effectively
- Support for helping students to think critically and analytically
- Promoting the use of computers
- Enabling working effectively with others
- Encouraging self-understanding
- Encouraging understanding of people from other racial and ethnic backgrounds
- Encouraging development of a personal code of ethics
- Encouraging students to contribute to the welfare of their communities
- Enabling development of clear career goals
- Enabling access to information about career opportunities

Services especially important to first-generation students

- Academic advising, planning, and counseling
- Career counseling
- Skill labs in writing or math
- Financial aid advising

Support from friends and family

- Support from friends of first-generation students at MJC is higher than for non-first-generation
- Support from family of first-generation students at MJC is higher than for non-first-generation