

**Council of Christian Colleges and Universities**  
**Project on Retention and Spiritual Transformation of Adult Students**

**Background:** A 2007 Consultation with CCCU Adult Program deans/directors identified retention and spiritual development as two areas of high interest. Two separate projects came out of this consultation, which have been merged into one project:

1. A Task Force on Spiritual Development, led by Chris Olsen (Azusa Pacific) and Dr. Larry Chamberlain (Indiana Wesleyan) investigated what traditional CCCU programs were doing to measure spiritual growth. They then developed a set of questions which were piloted at Indiana Wesleyan. Of the 28 questions, 13 appeared to be valid discriminators of spiritual development. These 13 self-reflective questions were integrated into existing Entrance and Exit surveys and placed in an online format.
2. A Task Force on Retention, led by Dr. Jonathan Kulaga (Spring Arbor) and Dr. Cynthia Tweedell (Indiana Wesleyan) discussed the need to find a model to predict the success of an adult student and to improve retention. They investigated what is already being done in this area. Dr. Tweedell had been administering Entrance and Exit Surveys for eight years and invited other schools to join in implementing these surveys. By looking at who persists to graduation, we can make some inferences regarding students who do not persist. After some adjustments, the survey was placed online, including 13 self-reflective questions on spiritual development.

**Procedures:**

1. Institutions send a link to the Online Entrance Survey to all entering adult students. [Click here](#) to view this survey.
2. Institutions send a link to the Online Exit Survey to these same students when they are ready to graduate. [Click here](#) to view this survey.

**What Institutions Will Get:**

1. Each summer, institutions will get a summary of their data, compared to the other institutions.
2. At the end of two years, institutions will get a comparison of their students upon entry and exit, to see the characteristics of students who are most likely to persist. These data will be compared to that from other institutions.

**Results from 2006-08 Analysis of Indiana Wesleyan Adult Business Students:**

1. Women are significantly more likely to persist to graduation in adult business programs at IWU.
2. At IWU, exiting business students pray more often than entering students.
3. Students who are very motivated by the convenient nature of the IWU adult degree program are more likely to persist.

**2008-09 Participants:**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Belhaven       | <input type="radio"/> Indiana Wesleyan      |
| <input type="radio"/> Dallas Baptist | <input type="radio"/> Mid America Christian |
| <input type="radio"/> Evangel        | <input type="radio"/> Spring Arbor          |

**For more information contact:**

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