

NSSE rates Quest well above other Canadian and US institutions NSSE Survey results reveal high quality undergraduate education

(Squamish, BC – August 31, 2010) The results of the 2010 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) show Quest University Canada's undergraduates are receiving a high quality undergraduate education and are amongst the most engaged in their studies. This is the first time Quest, which welcomed the first students to its unique program in 2007, has taken part in the survey.

The extremely high student engagement indicators revealed by the NSSE show that, in most categories, Quest **first**-year students report a more challenging and enriching experience than **fourth**-year students at all other Canadian universities.

"This is a singular achievement as measured by independent, external research. Everyone associated with Quest should be proud of these results," said David Helfand, President, Quest University Canada.

Quest University Canada is an independent liberal arts and sciences university in Squamish, British Columbia. It was founded on the premise that small class sizes, co-curricular education featuring experiential learning, a high level of student-faculty interaction and the one-course-at-a-time block program of curriculum delivery will provide a stimulating, high-quality education and an enriching post-secondary experience.

"The NSSE results show that Quest students are engaged in the kind of genuine learning our new educational paradigm was designed to achieve," said Helfand.

The NSSE, an instrument developed in the late 1990s at Indiana University, is designed to measure the true quality of an undergraduate education. It consists of a computer-administered survey of roughly 100 questions taken by first-year and fourth-year students and run by an independent research organization. Over 1450 universities in North America have administered the survey at least once; some provinces, such as Ontario, have mandated that all their universities participate.

The survey calculates factors such as the quality and level of intellectual and creative work, class involvement, student-faculty interaction, student participation in volunteer or co-curricular activities and the level of social and academic support for students.

The results are aggregated into five overall measures of educational quality: the Level of Academic Challenge (LAC), the inclusion of Enriching Educational Experiences (EEE), the level of Student-Faculty Interaction (SFI), the use of Active and Collaborative Learning (ACL), and the existence of a Supportive Campus Environment (SCE). Results are reported in comparison to three selected groups of schools. Quest was compared to all Canadian universities, all US liberal arts colleges (as categorized by the Carnegie Foundation) and all 603 schools in both countries taking the test last year (NSSE 2010).

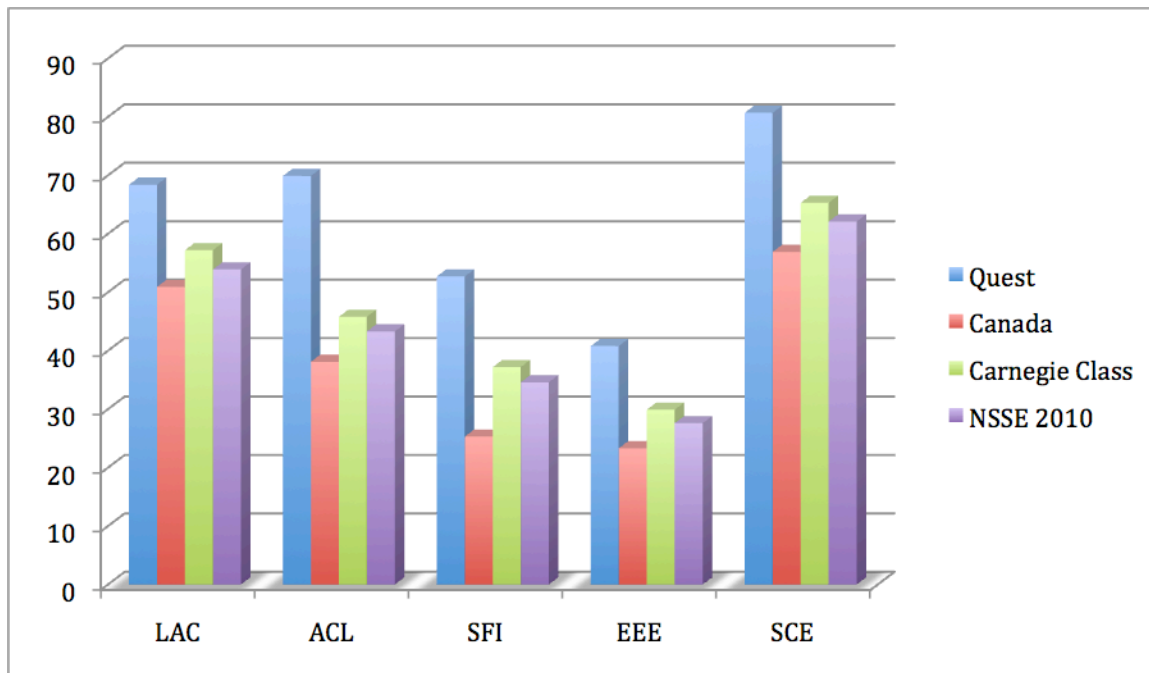
In all five categories, Quest's average scores are far above those of the schools in the cohort samples.

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The five categories are:

- LAC: Level of Academic Challenge
- ACL: Active and Collaborative Learning
- SFI: Student-Faculty Interaction
- EEE: Enriching Educational Experiences
- SCE: Supportive Campus Environment

The following graph shows the mean in each grouping.



In all five categories, Quest students (blue bars) rated their educational experiences far more positively than students at all 52 other Canadian universities. Quest scores are LAC 68.4, SFI 52.7, ACL 69.9, EEE 40.8, and SCE 80.7.

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For details about Quest University Canada's NSSE survey results, or to set up an interview, please contact:

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