From the Executive Producer....

Summer is passing by quickly and it seems that some of those plans for gaining ground on projects may not be realized. Where do the days go?! In spite of that, we are making headway on quite a number of our strategic initiatives.

In this NOIRE edition you’ll read about our new staff member, Melanie McLaren, our recent strategic planning retreat, the results of our customer feedback survey, plans for revamping the OIRE website, the most recent version of the CU System Diversity Report, and how to gain access to the ever-growing set of data visualizations that are posted to Tableau server.

We continue to augment our library of data visualizations and update the data presented within existing ones (which you’ll learn how to access in our “Now Showing” feature). There is now an example of an annotated visualization where we lead you through the set of visualizations with an overview of what the visualizations mean as well as individual annotations, denoted with lightbulbs. We’d appreciate your feedback on this new functionality and how we can improve upon it. If you would like a Tableau overview demo or a hands-on training session, let us know! We’d be delighted to meet with your unit or one-on-one!

For those of you who may not be aware, OIRE offers more than just “reporting” services. We’ve partnered with a variety of customers and provided not only data visualizations, but sophisticated data analyses and interpretations. As part of these and other analytic endeavors, we integrate data representing many content areas (e.g., student, faculty/staff, finance) from a variety of sources, including data provided by our customers. So that the institution can benefit from these analyses, OIRE will be introducing a “Data Analytics” portion on our website and discussion within these newsletters. If you are interested in learning more, seeing other examples of what we’ve created, or have questions, please let me know.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Cut and print...

Christine A. Stroup-Benham, Ph.D.
CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SURVEY

In addition to soliciting feedback year-round via the CIRED website, we email our customers near the end of each fiscal year to encourage them to complete our online feedback survey. Based upon both the qualitative and the quantitative data received for fiscal year 2017-18, we have renewed our commitment to providing context and explanations as well as ensuring that whatever we provide to you is easy to interpret. To that end, please do not hesitate to communicate with any of us regarding the products you receive. If they are not meeting these standards or your needs, we will partner with you to enhance them so that they are! All CIRED staff understand that this can be an iterative process and would much rather enhance what has been provided than having what we provided languish away unused.

NSSE KICK OFF

Every three years the Denver Campus administers the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) to first-year and senior students. This month we kick off the process for administering the NSSE in Spring 2019. The NSSE is a nationally-normed survey that has become a gold standard for institutions gathering information from students with the goals of increasing student engagement, improving undergraduate education, facilitating benchmarking, and responding to external constituencies. CU Denver first used the NSSE in 2001 and most recently in 2016.

As part of CIRED’s commitment to analyzing, understanding, and disseminating the results of the NSSE surveys, we produce a wide variety of reports based upon the NSSE data. Examples of these reports will be found on our soon-to-be-revealed “Data Analytics” webpage as well as the NSSE webpage. More are available via the CIRED portal and upon request.

Keep in mind that during the NSSE administration window, no other institutional surveys should be scheduled for administration to the Denver Campus first-year and senior students. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Stroup-Benham. Additionally, if you would like to be a part of the NSSE Team that guides the administration process, communication strategies, analytic plans, and the like, please let Dr. Stroup-Benham know!

NEW STAFF – MELANIE MCLAREN

Melanie joins the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness from CU Denver’s Student Affairs division, where she served as a Scholarship Advisor. In this role, she helped establish our inaugural Scholar Community, providing wrap-around services and programming for Schlars at CU Denver. She brings expertise in financial aid, scholarships, and pre-collegiate advising through her prior work and is eager to serve as a resource to those seeking to inform their work with data and assessment.

She recently completed her MA in Higher Education at the University of Denver, where her research focused on higher education policy and issues of college affordability and completion. Melanie also holds a BS in Biology from CU Colorado Springs, where she was the first in her family to attend and graduate from college.

Melanie is excited to join the CIRED team and help to deliver insights that can drive student success. She brings a passion for data-driven decision-making and helping CU Denver achieve its goal to support our students to and through graduation.

Outside of the office, you can find Melanie catching a show at Red Rocks, reading, or hiking with her husband and two dogs.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to her with any data analysis or visualization requests!
**OIRE Website Redesign Underway**

We here in OIRE are constantly pursuing new ways to share insights and data analysis with the CU Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus communities. We are excited to announce that following our recent strategic planning retreat, the OIRE team is focused on refining our communication strategy and revamping our website to ensure that you—our customers—can find the data and analyses you need.

Over time, IR staff members have built a collection of interactive Tableau visualizations and dashboards that allow the user to explore the data and gain valuable insights. Many of these dashboards are available via our report library in Tableau Server. Request access today to browse through an ever-growing collection of institutional reports and dashboards, including information on admissions, enrollment, retention, graduation rates, degrees conferred, and more. While additional and updated reports are being added, we’re also focused on organizing the content in an intuitive way and continuing to create personalized reports as requested.

We encourage you all to explore the University Dashboards to see how Tableau reports may help you! Maybe you’ll find an insight you weren’t necessarily looking for or find inspiration for a new data request. We are excited to launch the enhanced website this fall and welcome your feedback regarding your experience and what you would like to see added. As we strive to proactively deliver data insights, keep an eye out for more data visualization and reporting available via the OIRE webpages in the fall!

We will also be refreshing our postings on our “What’s New” page, developing new content that focuses on unique, surprising, and, perhaps, unknown tidbits of information, and augmenting our deliverables with annotations to facilitate your understanding of the information.

**DIVERSITY REPORT**

The annual Diversity Report, published each year by CU System, provides information on enrollment, retention, and graduation of minorities. It also includes data about enrollment of Pell recipients and students from various regions within Colorado. Each of the three institutions in CU System provides campus-specific narratives and data tables, including information on faculty and staff diversity as well.

The 2017-2018 Diversity Report will be published soon and historical reports can be viewed by clicking here! In the meantime, here are some “quick takes” from the reports:

- The proportion (and number) of undergraduate students of color at the combined Denver Campus and Anschutz Medical Campus increased each year since 2007, reaching 46% for Fall 2017.
- The percent of baccalaureate degrees awarded to students of color at the combined Denver Campus and Anschutz Medical Campus reached a high of 38% in FY2017.
- The numbers of students of color in the standard CU Denver undergraduate cohort have increased from 2002 through 2009. For most cohorts, the average 6-year graduation rates are higher for students of color than for majority students.