

Awards for Innovation Final Report

Title of Research Study:

Influences on Program-Level Curriculum Development and Enrollment in CTE Higher Education Programs

Investigator/Institution:

Janice E King, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Dietetics, Fashion Merchandising, and Hospitality
Western Illinois University
Knoblauch Hall 211
Macomb, IL 61455
je-king@wiu.edu
Telephone Number: 309-298-1085
Facsimile Number: 309-298-2688

Strand Project Addressed

Curriculum Development Initiatives for the Sixteen Career Clusters for CTE

Overview of Research Study

Curriculum, in higher education, has experienced many influences and changes. Career and technical education (CTE) has progressed from a traditional vocational curriculum to a curriculum offering multiple skills integrated with academics at the secondary/post-secondary levels and available to all students, in sixteen career clusters. The more known about what influences a curriculum, the better the curriculum addresses needs of the workforce. The purpose of this study was to identify influences on program-level curriculum development in higher education CTE programs in a Midwestern state and if influences have impacted enrollment.

Objectives/Research Questions

Objective 1: Identify influences on curriculum development in higher education CTE programs and its impact on enrollment.

Outcome: A completed, reliable survey instrument.

Action: Review research literature to identify influences on CTE higher education curriculum development; develop, pilot test, and revise survey.

Research literature revealed six internal influences (students, program mission, governance, faculty background, program resources, academic discipline) and seven external influences (society, alumni, accrediting agency, technology, government, professional associations, marketplace/employers) on higher education (Stark & Lattuca, 1997). The research instrument was developed, pilot tested, and revised. The instrument included questions on what influences CTE curriculum development and was enrollment impacted.

Objective 2: Collect influences on curriculum development and enrollment in higher education CTE program data.

Outcome: A random sample of data to be analyzed.

Action: Obtain mailing labels from Illinois State Board of Education and select a random sample of CTE teachers to survey initially and to follow-up on no responses.

A random sample (n=19) of CTE faculty from seven public universities was obtained. The initial survey obtained 12 responses and the follow-up obtained 7 additional responses.

Objective 3: Analyze and interpret data.

Outcome: Analyzed data for presentation.

Action: Analyze and compile data for presentation using SPSS.

SPSS revealed that internal influences had greater impact on curriculum development than external influences. The internal influences, faculty background and program mission, impacted curriculum development the most. The external influences of marketplace/employers and technology impacted curriculum development the most. Influences on curriculum development did not impact enrollment.

Objective 4: Deliver results of research data at Connections Conference.

Outcome: Presentation and handouts at Connections Conference.

Action: Prepare presentation and handouts for conference.

The research and handouts were prepared to be presented at the 2011 Connections Conference.

Objective 5: Submit paper to education journal.

Outcome: Manuscript for publication.

Action: Source appropriate publication and prepare manuscript for publication.

A paper is being prepared for submission to a scholarly journal.