

Project Update

This past year, the Spirituality Project got off to a strong start with the creation and implementation of its College Students' Beliefs and Values (CSBV) Pilot Survey in the spring of 2003. With a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation, a research team under the direction of Alexander "Sandy" Astin, Helen "Lena" Astin, and Jennifer Lindholm recruited 47 institutions to participate in the study. The data that were collected from the survey aided in the team's efforts to develop the final instrument, which will appear as a two-page addendum to the 2004 CIRP Freshman Survey.

During the past few months, our team has been heavily engaged with analyzing CSBV Pilot Survey data. Recent analyses have focused on spirituality and gender, political ideology, political engagement, religious involvement, and socioeconomic status. Previous press releases highlighting some of our findings can be found in the 'news' section of our project web site.

Building on findings from the CSBV Pilot Survey, we have also expanded the project's scope to include faculty attitudes about spirituality in higher education, their unique roles as teachers and mentors, as well as their thoughts about the spiritual development of students. The data—to be gathered through the 2004-2005 HERI Faculty Survey—will provide a broader picture of how the college experience shapes students' beliefs and values. Using these data, in conjunction with student data gathered from the 2004 CIRP/CSBV Freshman Survey, our research team will be in a unique position to examine how faculty beliefs and behaviors may affect students' spiritual development. Data from the Faculty Survey will also enable us to explore how faculty members perceive the role of spirituality in their own lives.

We are pleased to report that we have surpassed our initial goal of recruiting a representative sample of 150 institutions to administer the 2004 CIRP/CSBV Freshman Survey. To date, over 200 colleges and universities will be participating. Many of these institutions will also be participating in the 2004-2005 HERI Faculty Survey. We hope your campus will be one of those involved!

Registration for both the 2004 CIRP/CSBV Freshman Survey and the 2004-2005 HERI Faculty Survey will be open until August 31, 2004. If you would like more information about how to register for either of these surveys or have general questions about the project, please contact [Jennifer Lindholm](#) or [Alyssa Bryant](#).

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Alyssa Bryant, a member of our research team, has received her Ph.D. and will continue working with us as a postdoctoral fellow. Alyssa's research will continue to focus on gender differences in spirituality and related factors, the measurement of spiritual dimensions, and spirituality and emotional health.