

Monograph 40

The 2003 Your First College Year (YFCY) Survey: Exploring the Academic and Personal Experiences of First-Year Students

by Jennifer R. Keup and Ellen Bara Stolzenberg

A joint publication between the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience® & Students in Transition and the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA



For more than three decades the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles has helped higher educators understand the experiences, values, beliefs, and expectations new students bring to our campuses each fall. A relatively new survey from HERI—designed in collaboration with the Policy Center on the First Year of College—Your First College Year (YFCY), now helps us understand the impact of the critical first year on these students.



Monograph 40 draws on the findings from this unique instrument to paint a portrait of the cognitive and affective development of first-year students who entered college in fall 2002. Keup and Stolzenberg describe the first-year experience based on the responses of almost 30,000 students and provide an analysis of students' development over the course of the first year for almost 20,000 students who took both the CIRP Freshman Survey (pretest) and the YFCY (posttest). The authors also explore the first-year experience from the perspective of key student populations, such as commuter and residential students. They offer strategies for using these findings to provide intentional, effective initiatives on a variety of campuses.

The 2003 Your First College Year (YFCY) Survey provides a critical piece of the puzzle necessary for improving the academic and personal experiences of America's college students.

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