

## Troy University 2010-11 Senior Survey Report

### Executive Summary

The purpose of this survey is to identify student satisfaction with their experiences at Troy University, recognize student development as a result of their Troy University education, and identify areas that need to be improved. Data collected in this survey are used to help the University strengthen its academic programs, better serve the needs of its students, and become more effective and efficient in accomplishing its mission and goals.

As an annual effort of institutional effectiveness, the Troy University Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Effectiveness (IRPE) conducted the *Troy University Senior Survey* on all campuses of the University from November 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011. In the spring of 2009 the leadership of IRPE discussed the problems encountered with getting email addresses for the *Graduating Student Survey*. Because the prior practice of emailing all persons who had expressed an intent to graduate was so labor intensive and because it did not always yield good results, the decision was made to change the methodology for the survey. Beginning with the 2009-2010 Academic Year, the Senior Survey was administered once, during October and November, and all persons classified as Seniors in Datatel were invited to participate. Due to this change the survey was longer be called the *Graduating Student Survey*, but the *Senior Survey*. This is the second year that the *Senior Survey* has been administered using this methodology during this time frame.

The questionnaire for the survey contained 45 questions. The first 27 questions ask for information regarding students' demographics, academics, employment, and financial aid. Questions 28 – 44 of the survey, with a high reliability, focus on measuring students' perceptions about and satisfaction with their Troy experiences. The final question was an open-ended question allowing for additional comments.

For data analysis, descriptive methods were used for the overall University as well as for each individual campus, site, college, and degree. Questions 28 to 44 were tabulated and items were presented in a cross tabulation by campus so that comparison, if necessary, could be made between campuses or between campus and the overall University. Questions 28 - 31, which contain measures in 69 areas, are analyzed based on the factors defined from the same measures in the previous year's survey. Importantly, comparison was made between academic years 05-06, 06-07, 07-08, 08-09, 09-10, and 10-11 responses to identify any possible improvement, as well as between campuses to explore in detail areas where improvement efforts can be focused. In the end, frequency tables for all survey questions were provided as appendices for the overall responses as well as for each of the campuses and colleges.

### Major Findings

The *Troy University Senior Survey 2010 – 11* as administered from November 15, 2010 to January 15, 2011. During this time, students who were classified as seniors in Datatel were emailed the link to the survey. By the time data collection was closed on January 15, 2011, 1904 responses were received. This is comparable to the response rates from prior years.