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## For Immediate Release

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### The Culturally Engaging Campus Environments (CECE) Project Launches New Survey to Measure and Create More Inclusive Colleges and Universities

INDIANAPOLIS – May 16, 2016 – Over the last two years, colleges and universities have witnessed increased calls to foster more inclusive environments and better serve historically marginalized populations. However, when institutions do assume responsibility for fostering inclusive campuses, they are often hard pressed to find tools that can help them achieve these goals. In response, the Culturally Engaging Campus Environment (CECE; *pronounced see-see*) Project at Indiana University has developed a survey designed to assist institutions that seek to advance diversity and inclusion on their campuses.

The CECE survey measures what research says are the nine most critical elements of an optimally inclusive environment. These nine elements include cultural familiarity, culturally relevant knowledge, cultural community service, cultural validation, collectivism, meaningful cross-cultural engagement, holistic support, proactive support, and humanized environments. Decades of research shows that these nine aspects of optimally inclusive environments allow college students from all backgrounds to thrive in higher education. Dr. Sam Museum, Founding Director of the CECE Project says, “Over the last decade, our research consistently shows that students cite these nine factors as the reasons that they have succeeded in college.” The CECE survey launched nationally this week, and colleges and universities can now [register](#) to have the survey administered on their campuses during the 2016-2017 academic year.

But, the CECE survey does more than just measure the nine indicators. The CECE Project believes that it can also help mobilize advocates for diversity and inclusion toward common goals. Museum explains that, “The CECE survey is an assessment tool that campuses can use to diagnose their environments, but institutions can also use the instrument to cultivate a common vision regarding what their campuses should look like if they want to be truly inclusive and equitable. It can help institutions maintain a focus on what is most important in creating environments that maximize the likelihood that all of their students will thrive in college regardless of their backgrounds.”

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**About the CECE Project:** The CECE Project is aimed at aiding colleges and universities in cultivating inclusive environments that maximize success among diverse populations. The CECE Project is founded on the four pillars of achieving *equity*, facilitating institutional *transformation*, cultivating a common *vision* for diversity and inclusion efforts, and utilizing *inquiry* to advance this agenda. Readers can visit the CECE website ([cece.indiana.edu](http://cece.indiana.edu)) or email the CECE team ([cece@indiana.edu](mailto:cece@indiana.edu)) for more information.