## Co-Curricular Activity Participation and the Benefits of a Physical Campus <br> Allison M. Cantwell, UC Office of the President Steven Brint, UC Riverside SERU Research Symposium, June 2015

## Expectations for Higher Education

- The goal of a college degree has changed over time
- More demand and move toward efficiency
- Online education
- What does the physical campus have to offer?


## DATA

- Data include over 9,000 responses from 7 schools
- Co-curricular Items:
- 17 Items
- During the last academic year, how often have you done the following activities in a student club or organization of which you are a member?
- 3,142 Officers (34\%)


## Participation in Activates

- High Participation
- Recruited new members (49\%)
- Low Participation
- Designed or produced a product for sale (14\%)



## Three or More Times

Number of Activities Done 3 or More Times by Students (N=4938, 53\%)


## Who Participates?



## DATA

- Importance of Clubs in Skill Development
- 18 items
- Please rate how important your interactions with other students in student clubs and organizations has been to each of the following...
- Very Important or Essential
- 3,072 Officers (35\%)


## Importance of Clubs in Skill Development by Officer Status



## How does Participation Impact Outcomes and Behavior?

- Higher cumulative GPA
- Participating in at least one activity one or more times
- Officers, Women, Whites, Frosh Entrants, Seniors
- More Disengaged
- Participating in more activities 3 or more times
- Never participated in any activity
- Officers, Men, Juniors and Seniors
- More Time Studying
- Participating in at least one activity one or more times
- Participating in more activities 3 or more times
- Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors


## How does Participation Impact Outcomes and Behavior

- Higher Academic Conscientiousness
- Participating in at least one activity one or more times
- Participating in more activities 3 or more times
- Women, Freshmen
- Higher Critical Thinking
- Participating in at least one activity one or more times
- Participating in more activities 3 or more times
- Women, Seniors
- More Participation in class/with faculty
- Participating in at least one activity one or more times
- Participating in more activities 3 or more times
- Men, Transfers, Seniors


## ConcLusion

- The physical campus provides more than classroom education
- Approximately $76 \%$ of students participated in at least one interpersonal or professional skill-related activity in the school year.
- Engaging in activities is related to:
- Higher GPA
- More student engagement and academic behaviors
- Officers take advantage of skill development more often than non-officers
- Students see the value in clubs/orgs
- $46 \%-67 \%$ very important or essential
- Higher for officers ( $49 \%-80 \%$ )

