

Professor Evaluations Survey Update from Clemson University

To: bsteidle@pilot.msu.edu  
From: Drew Land <landa@CLEMSON.EDU>  
Subject: Professor Evaluations Survey Update from Clemson

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Dr. Barbara Steidle  
Enrollment Services  
Michigan State University

Dear Dr. Steidle

As we mentioned in our February 5, 2001, e-mail, we wanted to provide you with a brief summary of the trends we found after conducting research on publicizing professor evaluations. You--and the responses you provided--were an integral part of this research, and we thank you for your dedication to higher education.

We sent questionnaires to seventy-three institutions around the nation, selected based on the rankings they received this past year from *U.S. News & World Report* and *Time Magazine*. Approximately forty-three percent responded, and we feel that such a high rate of response for this type of inquiry provides an accurate assessment of nationwide opinions on this and related issues.

Some of the most interesting findings were:

- 45% of institutions that replied publish professor evaluations. Of those schools, 36% indicated that results are released online and another 18% said they intend to release results online in the near future.
- Of those who publish, 85% of schools release the objective portion of the evaluations.
- 32% of all institutions responding indicated Student Government participation in this publication process.
- Of publishing institutions, 33% also retain professor evaluations as part of personnel files, 22% do not, and 45% leave this decision at the discretion of each professor's respective department

The Clemson University Student Senate Academic Affairs Committee is currently formulating a proposal for publishing professor evaluations at Clemson. While the process is a great distance from completion, we feel that this survey and its results gave us an insight into this issue and allowed us to consider more options to pursue.

Thank you again for your assistance. Should you have any questions, please direct them to [landa@clemson.edu](mailto:landa@clemson.edu).

Sincerely

Megan L. Capobianco                      Andrew C. Land  
Chair, Academic Affairs Committee      Academic Affairs Committee