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# An Examination of the Perceptions of Traditional and Nontraditional Student Engagement at a Community College in Southern Appalachia

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## **An Examination of the Perceptions of Traditional and Nontraditional Student Engagement at a Community College in Southern Appalachia**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between student engagement and overall satisfaction of traditional and nontraditional students at the community college level at a community college in Southern Appalachia.

Three professors, 2 staff, 2 administrators, 5 traditional students, and 5 nontraditional students from a community college in Southern Appalachia comprised the sample for the study. A descriptive case study was the qualitative approach used. Data were collected in individual in-depth interviews with participants.

The findings of this study could provide community college administrators, staff and faculty with an understanding of traditional and nontraditional students' engagement and satisfaction and experiences on campus. This information can assist administrators, staff and faculty in identifying needs and priorities on campus along with developing learning environments that are effective for traditional and nontraditional students

Results of the research revealed positive overall perceptions of engagement and satisfaction from students, faculty and administrators. A theme that emerged was the strong focus on student centered, student focused, educational practices at a community college in Southern Appalachia. Additionally, it was evident that the community college continuously strives to improve their student support services as well as the academic learning environment to increase student engagement and satisfaction. Further, the findings revealed a need for more advising on the importance of utilizing student email and additional modes of communication from student support services to students and from faculty to students.