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Dr. Kinzie conducts research and leads project activities on effective use of student engagement data to improve educational quality, and is co-principal investigator on the Spencer Foundation funded project, Learning to Improve: A Study of Evidence-Based Improvement in Higher Education.

She managed the Documenting Effective Education Practices (DEEP) project and Building Engagement and Attainment of Minority Students (BEAMS), and also serves as senior scholar on the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) project, an initiative to study assessment in higher education and assist institutions and others in discovering and adopting promising practices in the assessment of college student learning outcomes.

Dr. Kinzie earned her PhD from Indiana University in higher education with a minor in women's studies. Prior to this, she served on the faculty of Indiana University and coordinated the University's master's program in higher education and student affairs. She also worked as a researcher and administrator in academic and student affairs at Miami University and Case Western Reserve University. Her scholarly interests include the assessment of student engagement, how colleges use data to improve, and the impact of programs and practices designed to support student success, as well as first-year student development, teaching and learning in college, access and equity, and women in underrepresented fields.

She has co-authored numerous publications including:

- Student Success in College: Creating Conditions that Matter (Jossey-Bass, 2005/2010);
- Continuity and Change in College Choice: National Policy, Institutional Practices and Student Decision Making;
- The second edition of One Size Does Not Fit All: Traditional and Innovative Models of Student Affairs Practice (Routledge, 2008/2014).

Dr Kinzie serves as co-editor of New Directions in Higher Education, on the editorial board of the Journal of College Student Development and the Journal of Learning Community Research, and on the boards of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the National Society for Collegiate Scholars, and the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition. In 2001, she was awarded a Student Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty at Indiana University and in 2005 and 2011 she received the Robert J. Menges Honored Presentation by the Professional Organizational Development (POD) Network, and the Shaffer Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012.