EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Student participation in the National Academy of Engineering’s (NAE) Grand Challenges is a snapshot of the world’s future scientific community. This report contains an analysis of student sentiment about the Grand Challenges.

The findings in this report reflect information gathered through student interactions with the Savor Chat website, through entrance/exit interviews, and through Collegiate Final Report Contributors’ (CFRC) observations.

Savor Chat was not effective as a primary means of communication. Savor Chat, as a primary communication tool between students and educators, saw little to no interactivity in the pre-Summit time period. This is possibly because of the short exposure time (~ one month), student reticence to using a new social-networking interface, or the lack of educator participation.

CFRC observations show that students are actively learning the concepts presented at the 2010 Chicago Summit. The posters presented address these challenges in a number of ways that show viability in the global marketplace.

Entrance/exit interviews show that students overwhelmingly enjoyed their participation in the 2010 Chicago Summit. Carbon, Energy, and Climate is the Grand Challenge that is most favored by career-track students; Urban Sustainability is the least favored. A significant number of students think interdisciplinary networks and solutions will make the biggest difference in addressing the Grand Challenges.