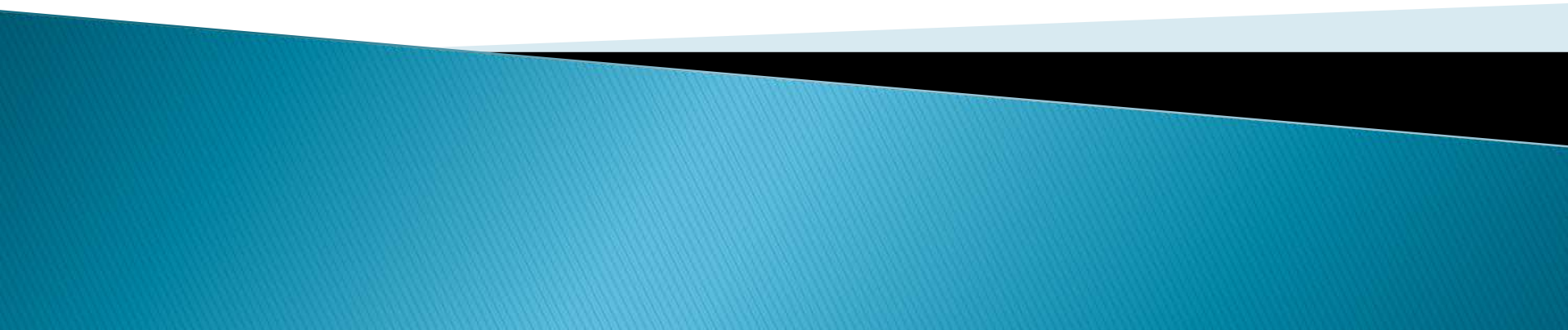


Lies, Damn Lies, and Institutional Research

Confessions from the
Berndt Hall Data Dungeon



Institutional Research

- ▶ OIRPA: Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment
 - Supports institutional decision making by providing information and analysis to the campus community
 - Board of Trustees
 - President
 - Provost
 - Ensures compliance with state, national, and other peer-managed reporting standards .
 - Colorado Commission Higher Education (SURDS)
 - US Department of Education (IPEDS)
 - Higher Learning Commission (HLC)

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Useful Pages

Fort Lewis College

<http://www.fortlewis.edu/ir/>


IPEDS Data Center

<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/>

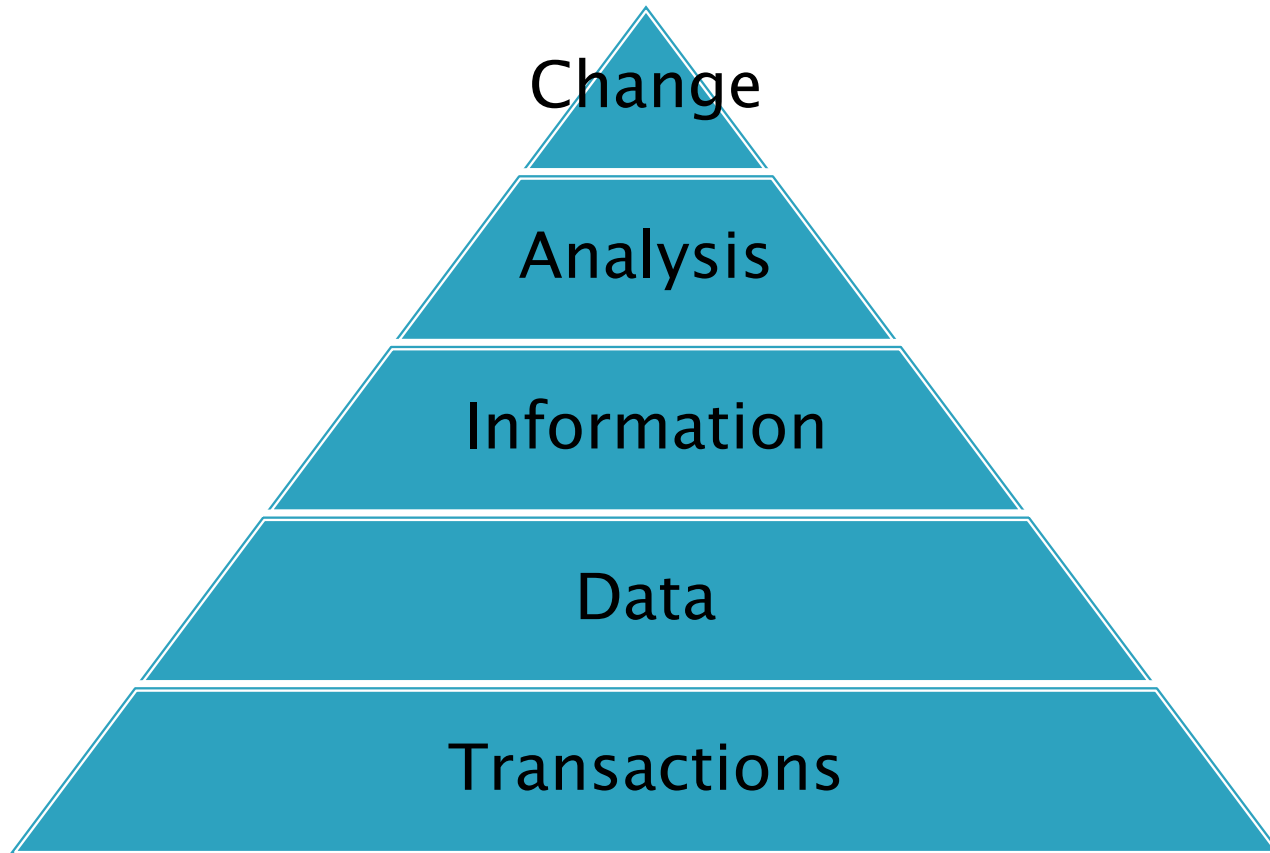
Colorado Commission of Higher Education

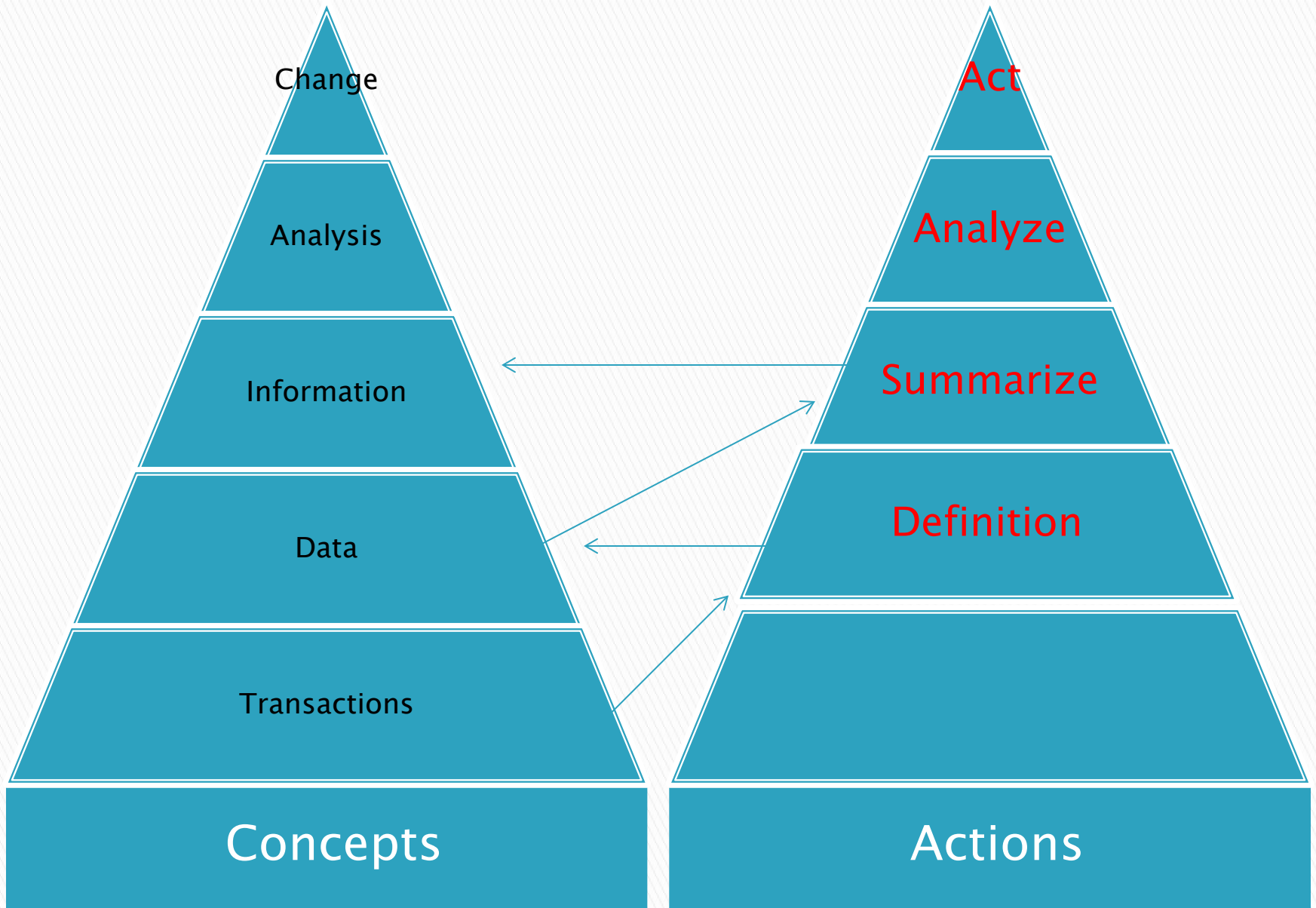
<http://highered.colorado.gov/#>

Common Kinds of Requests

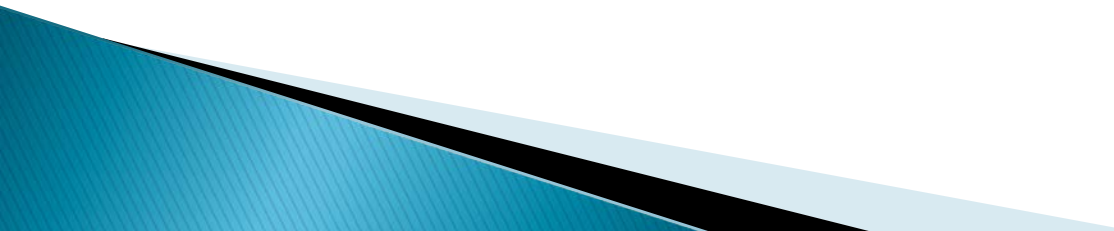
- ▶ How many students are in (department name)?
 - ▶ We're applying for a grant – what is the college-wide enrollment?
 - ▶ Program Reviews/evaluation.
 - ▶ I'm giving a talk to the Durango Association for Institutional Research, and need talking points.....
- 

It's not just about data!

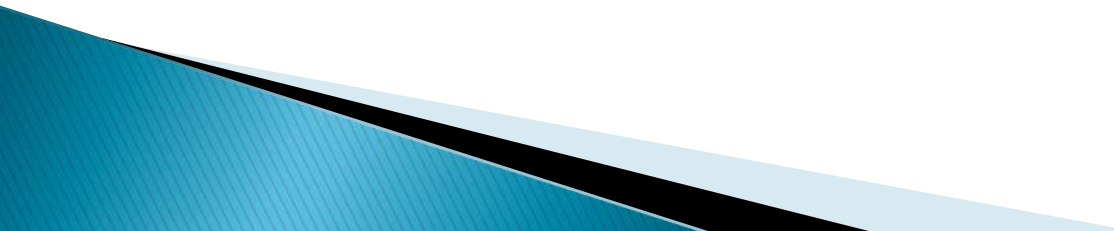




Common Term: IPEDS

- ▶ Integrated
 - ▶ Postsecondary
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Data
 - ▶ System
- 

IPEDES – continued

- ▶ Participation in IPEDES is mandatory in order to receive Federal funds.
 - ▶ IPEDES is supposed to be “standard” and “uniform” (all institutions agree on how to classify information).
 - ▶ Most of the data reported to IPEDES shows up in the College Navigator.
 - ▶ The data become public a year after we submit it, which makes it highly visible.
- 

Here's an IR Opportunity



Case Study

- ▶ Professor “X” claims “we have too many staff.”
- ▶ OIRPA response – let’s look at IPEDS Human Resources.

Three Questions

- ▶ WHAT?
- ▶ SO WHAT?
- ▶ NOW WHAT?



Question 1: WHAT?

- What can we observe?
 - IPEDS staffing reports
 - IPEDS Finance report
 - CUPA/HR reports
 - CCHE budget reports
 - Consortial reports (COPLAC)



Question 2: SO WHAT?

- Does what we observe matter?
 - Institutional mission/values
 - Strategic plan
 - Legal/political environment
 - Best practices



Question 3: NOW WHAT?



How to Work with Us

- ▶ Find out if you can answer it yourself
 - See our web pages – particularly the Common Data Set
 - ▶ Ask in advance!
 - OIRPA typically maintains a 2–3 week backlog
 - ▶ Don't over-analyze.
 - Most questions can be answered reasonably quickly. It's the complicated questions that burn up our time.
- 