

Executive Summary of Wayne Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan

Title

The Quest for Success: Slaying the Developmental Dragon

Topic

Wayne Community College's designated Quality Enhancement Plan will focus on improving student achievement of learning outcomes in developmental math.

Rationale for Selection

Before selecting the topic, the QEP team initiated a discussion of the college's general learning outcomes by addressing them in focus groups that were attended by faculty, staff, students, and local community/business leaders. A recurring issue that emerged from these discussions was the challenge posed by the under-prepared student. In addition to analyzing information gathered from focus groups, the team also examined a variety of statistics regarding the performance of students at WCC: the *Critical Success Factors for the North Carolina Community College System*, ASSET and COMPASS placement testing, developmental student progress in subsequent college courses, UNC General Administration Report Performance of College Transfer Students, the WCC SWOTS survey, graduate surveys, and employer surveys. As the QEP team analyzed the available information, time and again, questions were raised about developmental students. A consistent pattern of evidence emerged indicating the criticality of developmental courses in student success. As a result, the QEP team chose to focus on the issue of developmental education. Once the general topic was selected, the team began to narrow the focus, select a title, and determine the goals of the project.

Description

The Quest for Success: Slaying the Developmental Dragon will examine developmental education at WCC and seek to improve student achievement of learning outcomes in developmental math. Although developmental education at Wayne Community College includes one computer course, a study skills course, four math courses, two reading courses, and two English courses, the QEP team has chosen to focus on math as those courses have the most significant impact on student success. The project will devote four years to developmental math. A model for examination of core issues, improvement of student outcomes, and evaluation of results will be developed.

The QEP team has identified the following goals as core to the plan:

- Improve the structure, processes, and resources that support the values and goals of developmental education as a key issue in student success at WCC
- Improve student mastery of learning outcomes in developmental math.

The team is currently refining specific objectives for each goal, strategies to be used in achieving the objectives, assessment criteria, and implementation plans and timelines.