

## **Southwest Mississippi Community College**

### **Mission and Goals**

#### **Institutional Mission Statement**

Southwest Mississippi Community College provides academic, career, and continuing education, meeting the diverse needs of the population at a reasonable cost. SMCC provides community services and promotes economic development through consultative and workforce training.

#### **Institutional Goals**

- To provide a two-year college transfer program applicable to a bachelor's degree
- To provide career and technical programs leading to employment or skills enhancement.
- To provide programs enabling students to overcome specific deficiencies and achieve success.
- To provide curricula, instruction, guidance, extracurricular activities, and other support services enhancing student development.
- To provide facilities, technology, methodology, and staff sustaining an appropriate environment conducive to learning.
- To provide lifelong learning opportunities.
- To provide facilities and services supporting cultural, educational, and economic needs.
- To publicize offerings of the institution and the opportunities it affords.

#### Administration

Dr. Oliver Young, President

Alicia Shows, Vice President of Instruction

Grady Smith, Vice President of Business Affairs

Dr. Steven Bishop, Vice President of Student Affairs

Matthew Calhoun, Vice President of Admissions

James K. Morris, Vice President of Career and Technical Education

## Southwest Mississippi Community College

### Quality Enhancement Plan/ *Learn it....Live it.*

#### QEP Committee

In preparation for Southwest Mississippi Community College's upcoming SACS reaffirmation and accreditation visit in September 2009, the QEP committee with the assistance from faculty and staff has been working on the necessary components of the reaffirmation process.

One of the most important components is the QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP). The QEP is a focused course of action that addresses issues directly related to improving student learning and is designed to create and improve the teaching, learning, and community service of Southwest Mississippi Community College.

Southwest Mississippi Community College's QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) is the pairing of classroom learning with real-world application. Developing a QEP is part of the SACS reaffirmation process and is an opportunity for this institution to enhance overall learning by focusing on an issue the institution considers important to improving student learning.

The Southwest Mississippi Community College QEP is a project that would enhance both learning and wellness by providing a creative component to the academic environment: ***Learn it....Live it*** will be SMCC's QEP initiative.

The SMCC QEP committee consists of nine members of the SMCC faculty. The committee has been meeting to develop the QEP that will be presented for approval to the SACS committee at the end of September.

The QEP will focus on a particular student population, which will be SMCC LPN students. These students will participate in an experimental study, which will pair classroom learning with real-world application. This will allow the students an opportunity to ***Learn it.....and Live it.*** The learning outcomes that the plan will measure include student's knowledge on two primary concepts: nutrition and physical activity.

During their coursework the students will be exposed to concepts of nutrition, health, and physical activity, and then they will be provided an opportunity to apply these concepts in their life through the use of a health/fitness area on campus. Studies show a strong association between a student's health, which is linked to nutrition and physical activity, and the student's ability to achieve academically. The hypothesis is that students who use the health/fitness facility will increase their overall knowledge of nutrition, health, and physical fitness, which they will be able to apply in the classroom.

SMCC's QEP is a pairing of classroom learning and real-world application. We want our students to ***Learn it....Live it.***

All faculty, staff, and students need to be aware of the QEP and have knowledge of the plan. If you have any questions, you can contact Carla Griffin, chair of the QEP committee, at (601) 276-3746 or [birds@smcc.edu](mailto:birds@smcc.edu) or you can contact one of the following committee members Dan Lewman, Jack Seale, Karen Temple, Melissa Temple, Kim Bullock, David Strother, Yolanda Young, or Jennifer McLaughlin.

## **Overview of SMCC Quality Enhancement Plan**

- Project enhances both learning and wellness by providing a component to the academic environment of our LPN program.
- Centered on a pilot study involving students enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nursing program.
- Two major objectives: LPN students will know and be able to articulate the benefits of exercise, and LPN students will develop a clear understanding of the effects and benefits of proper nutrition.
- The outcomes will be measured by comparing pre and post test scores.
- The students in the first year of the study will have traditional classroom instruction only.
- Students in subsequent classes will receive traditional class instruction plus an experience component will be added to allow the students to apply what they learned in the classroom to real-world situations.

## **QEP Answers**

**The QEP is a voluntary process that is separate from reaccreditation.**

**False**

There are several documents that are key elements of the reaffirmation process. They are: 1. Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement, 2. Compliance Certification, 3. The Quality Enhancement Plan, 4. Institutional Profile, and 5. The Focused Report.

The Quality Enhancement Plan is an integral part of the reaccreditation process. The plan is a document developed by the institution that describes a course of action for institutional improvement crucial to enhancing education quality that is directly related to student learning. The QEP is based upon comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the institution in supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution.

**Institutions should focus on one or two select topics.**

**False**

The QEP's focus needs to be one topic broad in scope to be viewed as significant to the institution and a major enhancement of the learning experience for the students. The QEP should be clear and succinct.

**The QEP should be a campus-wide effort that involves everyone.**

**True**

Since faculty members play an important role in student learning, they should be appropriately represented in the early emphasis of the development of the QEP. It is important for all campus groups to participate.

**The primary focus of the QEP should be faculty development.**

**False**

The primary focus of the QEP is the enhancement of student learning. SMCC's QEP should be able to provide a plan for assessment of the results and a plan to utilize the results to improve student learning.

**The QEP benefits students.**

**True**

The goals of the QEP and the evaluation strategies utilized should be directly linked to improving the quality of student learning.

**Peer reviewers intuitively understand the definitions, outcomes, and proposed assessments in a QEP.**

**False**

The onsite review committee provides advice and consultation to assist the institution in strengthening its QEP. The on-site review committee will evaluate the acceptability of the QEP based on the following indicators: focus, SMCC's capability for initiation and continuation of the plan, SMCC's ability to assess the success of the plan, and SMCC's involvement of the faculty, staff, students, administrators, and board members. SMCC's QEP should provide detailed information about the definitions of the plan's focus, utilization of outcomes, and assessment strategies.

**The Commission on Colleges provides funding to support the QEP.**

**False**

Institutional resources will be utilized to support the QEP.

**Faculty have little involvement with the QEP.**

**False**

There should be widespread participation by all SMCC constituent groups, such as, faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and board members.

**It is best to wait until SACS approves all parts of the QEP before implementation.**

**True**

The on-site review committee provides and advice and consultation to assist the institution in strengthening its WEP.

**Use multiple means to communicate with the campus about the QEP.**

**True**

SMCC should utilize multiple means to communicate with the campus about the QEP. All faculty, staff, and students need to be aware of the QEP and have knowledge of the plan and be able to articulate this information.

**The QEP provides institutions an opportunity to improve.**

**True**

SACS as an organization is committed to the enhancement of the quality of higher education and improving student learning. One of the main objectives of the QEP is to offer SMCC an opportunity to improve student learning by focusing on a topic area by implementing a plan, testing the plan, and evaluating and assessing the results.