

Enhancing Writing—Write On!

Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Executive Summary

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The goals of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute's Quality Enhancement Plan are to enhance student writing and create an institutional culture of writing at CCC and TI. This plan defines good writing as the ability to produce unified, coherent, well-developed written communication using standard English as measured by the QEP holistic rubric developed for this project. The objectives of this plan include establishing programs and services designed to enhance student writing and integrate writing across the curriculum. Strategies for implementation include establishing writing centers on both campuses to serve students, faculty, and staff, developing an online writing center, and establishing a professional development program for faculty designed to train faculty cohorts in the theoretical basis for writing to learn and writing across the curriculum strategies.

This plan uses multiple measures of direct and indirect assessment to evaluate the attainment of specific student learning outcomes and the successful implementation of the plan. Direct measures such as the assessment of student writing in capstone courses and portfolio analysis by a team of trained evaluators will be combined with external measures such as the use of outside evaluators to assess student writing. Indirect means of assessment include the use of student and faculty perception surveys and analysis of writing center usage statistics and faculty referrals. Timelines, assessment strategies, types of assessment, and criteria for success have been established for plan components.

The CCC and TI QEP enhances student learning through a focused process that will have a dramatic effect on this institution for many years. Our QEP is a collaborative effort that is based on the idea that writing is an effective learning tool not confined to one department or isolated classes. As an institution, we understand that writing is an essential skill needed for success in every career. The role of the CCC and TI QEP is to promote a culture of writing that celebrates creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. We expect this plan to truly change the nature of teaching and learning at this institution for many years to come.