QEP Title: Learning Communities: Connecting Ideas, Inspiring Success and Increasing Completion
Institution: Dyersburg State Community College
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Executive Summary

Dyersburg State Community College (DSCC) has developed a comprehensive plan to implement learning communities in its courses to increase student learning, student success, student retention and completion. The use of learning communities is a proven and researched-based method that increases student success and allows students to form connections with each other and with course content and provides an interdisciplinary approach to education. DSCC serves a rural population and offers one of the few opportunities for its citizens to elevate their post-secondary education attainment.

Additionally, learning communities allow faculty to collaboratively work together to redesign and refresh course material and provide a higher level of student engagement. Learning communities will allow DSCC faculty to refine their craft while providing a more enriching educational opportunity for the student body at the College. DSCC collected data and input from faculty, staff, students and community members and reviewed internal data when developing the QEP topic. The QEP focuses on freshmen-level courses in three co-requisite course pairings for development into Learning Communities: ENGL 0810 Learning Support Writing with ENGL 1010 English Composition I; MATH 0530 Support for MATH 1530 with MATH 1530 Introductory Statistics; and READ 0810 Learning Support Reading with COMM 2025 Fundamentals of Communication.

QEP Goals - The QEP has two goals:
1. Increase three-year graduation rates of first-time, full-time students from 17.4 percent to 20 percent by the year 2023.
2. Increase fall-to-fall retention for first-time, full-time students who participate in a learning community from 56.1 percent to 60 percent.

QEP Learning Outcomes

-Mathematics Learning Community Student Learning Outcomes
The students will:
1. Organize and analyze data.
2. Make inferences based on the outcomes of a hypothesis test.

-English Learning Community Student Learning Outcomes
The students will:
1. Write essays that demonstrate mastery of the conventions of Standard English and basic organizational strategies.
2. Read and edit their own writing critically and analytically and make appropriate revisions.

-Speech and Reading Learning Community Student Learning Outcomes
The students will:
1. Identify authoritative periodical, database and internet website articles.
2. Identify hard evidence content within an article.
3. Differentiate between fact and opinion within an article.
4. Determine the content within a paragraph in a periodical, database or website article.
5. Accurately identify the information necessary to construct a citation entry for all periodical, database or internet website articles using either an APA or MLA Works Cited Page.