

## **I. Executive Summary**

The mission of Emmanuel College (EC), a private liberal arts college in Northeast Georgia, is to be a Christ-centered institution that strives to prepare students to become Christlike disciples who integrate faith, learning, and living for effective careers, scholarship, and service. As an institution we acknowledge all of our students are in various stages of transition. However, students entering college for the first time have begun a unique transition that is particularly exciting and stressful.

The EC community has decided to focus the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) specifically on the transition of first-year students as they begin to walk a path towards success and degree completion. Recognizing that students with high quality, focused support are more successful, the QEP will develop a mentoring program designed to help first-year students foster meaningful relationships with both faculty and peers on campus. First-year students will enroll in a seminar course (ECF101 Foundations); the course instructor, known to the students as their Faculty Mentor, will work alongside of the students and an assigned upper-level Peer Mentor, to help guide new students through their first semester of college. Faculty and Peer Mentors will engage in training annually to assist them in their work of partnering with first-year students in their transition to becoming a full member of the EC learning community. The ECF101 Foundations course will be intentionally linked to pre-term orientation; and the Faculty Mentor, using the techniques of Appreciative Advising, will serve as the academic adviser for the first term or until the new student has declared a major

The program focuses particularly on the roles of Faculty Mentors and Peer Mentors. However, additional faculty and staff development will be provided so that all members of the community can be involved in helping new students as they make a successful transition into the Emmanuel College community.