

High Point University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

QEP Title: Live. Learn. Grow. Developing a Growth Mindset

Institution: High Point University

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High Point University's QEP – Live.Learn.Grow. – is rooted in our commitment to holistic education and our mission “to deliver educational experiences that enlighten, challenge, and prepare students to lead lives of significance in complex global communities.” The focus of this plan is to increase student learning by facilitating development of a growth mindset among faculty, staff, and students. To achieve this objective, the university will employ best practices and encourage innovation across campus to help students transition from a fixed to a growth mindset. This QEP will drive pedagogical innovation, promote the scholarship of teaching and learning, and shape curricula across disciplines and campus domains.

Live.Learn.Grow. is a multifaceted attempt to increase student learning by facilitating the development of growth mindsets among faculty, staff, and students. According to the researcher who coined the term, Stanford psychology professor Carol Dweck, “growth mindset” is “the belief that your basic qualities are things you can cultivate through your efforts” (Dweck, 2006, p. 7). People with a growth mindset believe that intelligence and ability can be improved through effort and experimentation and with timely, relevant feedback (Dweck, 2006). The QEP seeks to increase student learning by encouraging all campus members to perceive intelligence and ability as traits that can be improved through challenge, persistence, experimentation, and reflection.

Executive Summary: Live.Learn.Grow. is the product of an 18-month process that synthesized input from a broad range of university stakeholders, data from institutional assessments, and specific ideas for student and professional development from teachers and staff. The plan responds to stakeholders' calls for academic and co-curricular planning that would promote heightened intellectual rigor across the curriculum, foster in students greater motivation and resilience in meeting challenges, and encourage a campus climate of high expectations and focused support. These calls were strengthened by institutional assessment data that showed room for growth in areas related to students' academic effort and engagement.

The QEP puts into place a dynamic, flexible, data-driven system for incentivizing, crafting, delivering, and assessing innovative, learner-centered curricula that blend rigorous academic challenges with instruction in non-cognitive skills, such as motivation, perseverance, and self-control. With a five-year budget of \$1.4 million, the QEP involves significant commitments to faculty and staff development and to the strengthening of a culture of inquiry and experimentation. The outcomes and actions described in the pages that follow will provide HPU with a vibrant Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, a large cohort of faculty and staff willing and able to deliver new and powerful learning experiences, and a significant body of research and scholarship in the areas of pedagogy and non-cognitive development.

Live.Learn.Grow. will encourage all campus members to think differently about how they learn and how they approach new and challenging obstacles. For our students in particular, Live.Learn.Grow. will teach the attitudes and habits of mind that are vital in today's fast-paced, global economy – traits such as a comfort with difficulty, the willingness to seek out resources and support, and an acceptance that struggle and failure are steps on the road to lives of success and significance.