

Hopkinsville Community College Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) *Literatzi* focusing on reading comprehension is Hopkinsville Community College's new initiative to support student learning and academic success. The plan ultimately hinges upon faculty development as faculty members assume a critical role in students' academic achievement. Once the QEP is implemented, faculty members will be prepared to incorporate reading strategies within their curricula and provide students with authentic, content area reading material that will increase reading comprehension. The QEP will also address the need to encourage a culture of reading.

In 2009, faculty members, students, staff, administrators, board members, and community members collaborated in the QEP topic selection process. Anecdotal evidence coupled with Compass test scores, ACT test scores, CCSSE surveys, and research regarding the importance that reading comprehension plays in academic success were all considered as viable data to support the need to encourage better reading among HCC students. The topic also coincided with the HCC mission statement and the strategic goals, both of which emphasize the college's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.

The actions to be implemented as part of the QEP are fourfold. First, a select group of faculty members will participate in Reading Apprenticeship (RA) trainings which teaches faculty the particulars of strategic reading and how to develop reading assignments that will stimulate students' metacognition, which is defined as "the knowledge of how to read as well as the ability to regulate and direct the process." The goal is for RA trained faculty to provide ongoing RA training sessions to other faculty as part of faculty professional development. Teaching other faculty members how to incorporate strategic reading into their courses will segue into the second action of the QEP, which is to transform reading instruction so that reading is embedded into the individual disciplines. Embedded or Content Area Strategic Reading Instruction is a well-researched and well-supported learning initiative that has been shown to produce self-motivated readers who, in turn, become more engaged as students. Other faculty development initiatives will include Faculty Roundtables/Learning Communities, faculty committees that focus on reading pedagogy, and common book readings and discussions. Third, the QEP will seek to broaden already existing academic support centers to include Reading Comprehension tutoring. Finally, encouraging students to engage in reading activities outside of the classroom is key to developing a culture of reading. Activities such as reading and discussing a common book have been shown to increase students' interest in reading and in exchanging ideas.

The assessment plan will include data from the Nelson-Denny Reading Tests to gauge current and future reading comprehension levels. In addition, CCSSE surveys and other surveys developed by QEP personnel will be used to assess the reading engagement outcome and the success of faculty development initiatives. Finally, reading comprehension assignments from a variety of classes will be assessed by the Reading Committee against a reading rubric that is designed and approved by an appropriate assessing body. At the end of each academic year, a comprehensive report, based upon the combined assessment tools, will be created to provide an in-depth examination of the QEP.