

Executive Summary for Jacksonville College

QEP: Let There Be MATH

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Data compiled from Fall 2005 – Spring 2009 indicate a high number of Jacksonville College students lack college readiness skills in mathematics. This deficiency not only impedes success in college algebra, a core course, but also prevents graduations and ultimately limits career choices for these students. Jacksonville College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) "Let There Be MATH" embodies the institution's determination to strengthen student success in developmental mathematics and college algebra. The goal is to create a math culture that enables these mathematically challenged students to understand that with personal commitment and effort they can comprehend the practical nature of mathematics, embrace its importance as a life skill, and have a direct impact on their own success. To realize this goal, the "MATH" QEP over the next five years will emphasize four strategic areas: motivation, advising, teaching innovations, and higher-level thinking.

The four areas of emphasis will be integrated by phases into the Jacksonville College campus community over the five year period from 2010 – 2015. Motivation, the first area of emphasis, will utilize chapel programs, alumni connections, and intra-campus communication to promote positive attitudes among students toward math. Advising, the next area of emphasis, will recommend revisions in the placement process, focus on stronger student/advisor connections, and implement advising strategies from the National Academic Advising Association. Teaching Innovations, the third area of emphasis, will include concerted professional growth aimed toward development of more interactive, student-centered teaching strategies. Refinements in technology and math lab structure and the implementation of peer tutoring will be foundational innovations in the QEP. Higher-level thinking, the final area of emphasis, closely aligns with teaching innovations and will also include a strong professional growth agenda in order to better implement Bloom's Taxonomy in all areas of curriculum from composing syllabi to constructing tests.

A QEP Manager will oversee the five-year plan. Major responsibilities of the manager will include tracking institutional accountability of the QEP, collecting and disseminating assessment data, and securing and promoting professional growth opportunities as they relate to the four areas of emphasis. The QEP Manager will compile information on a regular basis and submit a yearly report to the Office of the Academic Dean/SACS Liaison.

Jacksonville College fully expects the coordinated efforts in these four strategic areas to strengthen student success in the developmental math courses and college algebra. As a direct result, the institution hopes to realize a positive impact on graduation/transfer rates and to inspire students to achieve the goal of life long learning.