

# Lamar University Quality Enhancement Plan Summary

8/8/10

Title: Active and Collaborative Engagement for Students (ACES)

Contact: Dr. Todd Pourciau, Director of ACES and Center for Teaching and Learning Enhancement. PO Box 10002, Beaumont, TX 77710. Phone (409) 880 7553. E-mail: [todd.pourciau@lamar.edu](mailto:todd.pourciau@lamar.edu)

Executive Summary: The Lamar University Quality Enhancement Plan, Active and Collaborative Engagement for Students (ACES), focuses on improving student learning in core and developmental courses by promoting active and collaborative teaching. The project was approved at the April 2009 site visit and activities began in fall 2009.

The project works in three main areas:

1. Enhancing faculty understanding of active and collaborative teaching for student engagement and student success and enhancing faculty skill at implementing it. These professional development efforts are directed broadly at all faculty teaching core and developmental courses.
2. Establishing an incentives program to reward core and developmental faculty for experimentation with and commitment to active and collaborative teaching.
  - Faculty stipends or reassigned time for individuals or departmental groups for improvement or assessment of a core or developmental course. Recipients are designated as ACES Fellows.
  - Equipment grants for items directly related to the course improvement efforts of ACES Fellows.
  - Individual and departmental continuation grants to reward ongoing improvement and assessment in target courses and continued activity as ACES Fellows, including presentations to other faculty members.
  - ACES Certification for faculty whose core or developmental courses consistently meet high standards of active and collaborative engagement and student learning over several years.
3. Assessing a number of related dimensions of the project:
  - Faculty satisfaction with professional development related to active and collaborative learning/teaching;
  - Implementation of active and collaborative learning activities in core and developmental courses across the university;
  - Implementation of active and collaborative learning activities in classes of ACES Fellows and others receiving incentives; and
  - Student learning in classes of the ACES Fellows

