

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

### ***Improving Reading Comprehension through Cross-Curriculum Strategies*** **Martin Community College, Williamston, North Carolina**

Groundwork for Martin Community College's (MCC) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), as part of the College's Reaffirmation of Accreditation, began during Spring Semester 2007. During the Strategic Planning process in the Fall Semester 2007, a series of focus groups were held involving students, faculty, and Program Advisory Committee members, consisting of community leaders. Focus groups were utilized to seek input from a broad base of constituents on the focus of the QEP. A common concern raised during those focus groups was the need for better communication skills to ensure both student academic and career success. Focus groups placed emphasis on reading, writing, and oral communications skills.

Meetings of the full faculty began in February 2008; and concurrently, written surveys were disseminated to students, faculty (full-time and adjunct), staff, Board of Trustee members, Program Advisory Committee members, and high school guidance counselors within the College's service area to obtain opinions on what should be the focus of our QEP. Meeting in March, full-time faculty voted unanimously to recommend to the College's Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Leadership Team that ***Improving Reading Comprehension through Cross-Curriculum Strategies*** be chosen as the QEP focus. Meeting that same afternoon, the Leadership Team adopted the focus.

***Improving Reading Comprehension through Cross-Curriculum Strategies*** will be implemented across the curriculum. Students in every credit-bearing course in every curriculum program of the College need a sound foundation in reading comprehension. Kickoff events for faculty and students started in the summer, and planning began for the fall of 2008. The QEP Committee will work with the College's Student Government Association to ensure student participation. Professional development workshops began in the summer of 2008.

MCC has identified two outcomes for the reading initiative: (1) Students across the curriculum will demonstrate an increase in reading comprehension and (2) Students will document an increase in reading practice outside the classroom in every course in which they enroll. These outcomes will be achieved of all MCC students and graduates through best practice strategies applied across the curriculum. Data collection and frequent assessment will monitor and identify those strategies best suited for continued implementation. Assessment results will be used to improve the teaching and learning process.

The College President supports this QEP and ensures that appropriate leadership and resources will be provided for timely implementation and sustainability.

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