

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Title of Quality Enhancement Plan: *Promoting Advanced Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Development for Juniors*

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Morris College is an open admissions institution, and as such, it recognizes that its students work hard to master both the content of various courses that qualify them for a degree and also to master the various skills that are prescribed in the college's Mission Statement. When students enter the Junior Class, they must be prepared to move to higher orders of learning that require a higher level of skills necessary for success in Upper Division courses and that are also required for success in managerial and professional careers as well as success in graduate and professional schools. Many can benefit from enhancement in two important and interrelated skills that Upper Division college students must master, advanced reading comprehension and vocabulary development. Through various tests that measure the level of these skills and various activities designed for the QEP Project, junior-level students will benefit greatly from continued enhancement in these two critical skills.

In response to this need, Morris College has chosen as the topic for its Quality Enhancement Plan *Promoting Advanced Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary Development for Juniors*. The college's faculty, staff, students, alumni and trustees overwhelmingly support this topic.

Many meetings were held to develop a design for this plan, and they established the concept of limiting the project exclusively to the Junior Class as the critical group that will become graduates who can benefit from this kind of project. The validity of the project will be determined if those who participate in it show measurable progress in mastering these two fundamental competencies.

The college ultimately agreed on the following two Student Learning Outcomes that should result for those students who participate in the project.

- 1) QEP participants will demonstrate a word-conscious knowledge of vocabulary.
- 2) QEP participants will comprehend complex written material.

The above Student Learning Outcomes are to be achieved through initial diagnostic testing to determine the specific kinds of reading and vocabulary competencies that each participant possesses, and then organizing the students into groups with the same abilities so that they can participate in various kinds of group instruction, individual tutoring and computer-based exercises with QEP staff. They will also complete additional work with one or more of their regular classroom instructors in a designated QEP course that has been established for each academic major.

Morris College's Quality Enhancement Plan has a single goal which is that the two skill sets, advanced reading comprehension and advanced vocabulary development, will be enhanced for all QEP participants. Achievement of this goal will occur when the three objectives in the Assessment Plan and the above two student learning outcomes are met. Various direct and indirect measures, both quantitative and qualitative, will be used to assess the outcomes. An analysis of the data from the outcome measures will be used to assess the objectives, which will determine the overall impact of the project.