

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Saint Leo University's QEP, *A Model for a Challenging World*, equips students with critical thinking skills, helps students explore the Saint Leo University core values while clarifying their personal values, and prepares them to apply and link critical thinking skills and values in their decision making. Students will:

- develop critical thinking skills;
- understand and use the core values; and
- apply critical thinking and values to decision making.

Students will develop, refine, and apply these skills and abilities through their experiences in a revised general education curriculum and redesigned courses in all academic majors. The redesigned general education curriculum includes an emphasis on developing and applying critical thinking skills. It also includes an emphasis on learning about and applying the university core values. Students' experiences in selected courses in each academic program reinforce and expand the critical thinking and core values foundation created through the general education experience.

Multiple stakeholders from across the university, including students, faculty members, staff, administrators and the board of trustees, helped focus the university's QEP on learning that is essential to the success of the university's graduates. The resulting QEP aligns with the school's mission. To bring about the desired learning outcomes, a QEP director will lead this initiative. The QEP director reports to the vice president for Academic Affairs and receives guidance and support from the QEP advisory committee.

The QEP director and administrator are responsible for implementing and sustaining the QEP. The director serves on the committee charged with revising the general education curriculum. This ensures that the new general education curriculum creates learning experiences that help fulfill the QEP learning goals.

To assess student learning through the QEP and to guide ongoing efforts to improve the QEP, the university will use rubric-scored course assignments, embedded assessments, and the ETS Proficiency Profile. The director of research and evaluation for Saint Leo University is collaborating with the QEP director to assess student learning and monitor the plan's implementation.

Over the next five years, Saint Leo University has budgeted to spend over \$1,000,000 to strengthen student learning in critical thinking, the university core values, and applying values and critical thinking to decision making through the QEP.

Oversight is the responsibility of Saint Leo University's SACS Leadership Team. Questions regarding *A Model for a Challenging World* can be directed to Dr. Trish Parrish, Associate Dean for the School of Education and Social Services, by e-mail (trish.parrish@saintleo.edu).