## Toccoa Falls College QEP Abstract

## Wisdom Education: An Intentional Approach to Integrating Character and Intellect

With integration of the whole person in the learning process emphasized at many academic institutions, Toccoa Falls College wanted to move beyond theory and develop an action plan to formalize it. This quality enhancement plan intentionally promotes the integration of character and intellect in the classroom and in campus life in a plan entitled "wisdom education." With a college motto, "Where Character is Developed with Intellect," the college community wanted to explore our motto and enhance our institutional learning ethos along this theme. Many religious-affiliated colleges like ours unintentionally separate the character development from their academics, and we seek to integrate them.

The plan formally incorporates the spiritual aspect of character in three levels of the curriculum, while reinforcing it in campus wide offices. A new freshman course in Spiritual Formation serves as the <u>Cornerstone</u>, where new students lay a foundation for spiritual awareness and integration with their majors in future classes. A service component already in place, student ministries, hosts a more deliberate recognition of how and why Christian service is important in a second level called <u>Cornerstone</u>. A new approach to integration of character with course disciplines serve as the <u>Capstone</u> to the project. Finally, an opportunity for all offices on campus to join in the QEP comes in the <u>Cementstone</u>, a volunteer participation to reinforce the motto through the regular acitivties of academic support, student development, and overall campus culture. The result is a plan to bring the whole person into the learning process through an integrative strategy in the curricular and co-curricular programs.

This QEP hopes to generate this integration in our student's college academic experience, causing the spiritual principles that construct one's character to converge with intellect in the learning process.

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