

QEP Title: High Impact EDGE

Institution: Tri-County Technical College

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Executive Summary:

Tri-County Technical College (TCTC) has been on a decade-long journey to improve student learning and success. The 2016 Quality Enhancement Plan topic, the High-Impact EDGE, is a natural next step in this journey to design and deliver transformative educational experiences. Tri-County is known in the community for giving its graduates the “TCTC EDGE” (Employable, Dedicated, Goal-Oriented, Empowered) through its quality programs and services. This QEP will further enhance the EDGE by scaling up high-impact educational practices (HIPs) across all associate degree programs, thus ensuring that graduates leave the College with the High-Impact EDGE! Using broad-based input, TCTC identified the High-Impact EDGE as the QEP topic to achieve the following:

- leverage high-impact practices to promote the long-term improvement of student learning using research based methods such as learning communities, capstones courses, service learning, and internships;
- creatively address the issues associated with scaling programs shown to be effective in aiding the College to realize its vision
- supplement the College’s value proposition of giving TCTC graduates the EDGE by creating experiences that cultivate 21st century workplace skills; and
- directly support improvements in many of the College’s strategic plan success metrics.

The QEP emerged from the College’s strategic planning process and started with clear, measurable outcomes that focus on improving student learning and that have specific, measurable targets. The QEP goals are the following:

- embed two program HIPs into the curriculum of each associate degree program through course redesign;
- increase student engagement in the classroom through faculty professional development on high-impact teaching;
- increase students’ integrative learning ability through participation in two course-embedded program HIPs;
- increase associate degree program graduation rate through the implementation of high-impact teaching practices and course-embedded program HIPs; and
- increase associate degree program fall-to-fall success rate for first-time, full-time students through the implementation of high-impact teaching practices and course-embedded program HIPs.

The action plan and budget demonstrate that the College has the capability to initiate and sustain the QEP plan. The total cost to implement the QEP is \$690,080 over five years and will be managed by the existing Curriculum and Instructional Support office. Funding includes faculty released time, in-house and external faculty development, and travel.

By achieving a 10% increase in each program’s retention rate, a conservative estimate of 137% return on investment will be realized over the life of the project.