Executive Summary

Quality Enhancement Plan:

Faculty Learning Communities to Enhance Undergraduate Education: With an initial focus on information, communication, and technology literacy.

Institution:

University of Miami

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The University of Miami's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) proposes to enhance undergraduate learning through the creation of a program of Faculty Learning Communities (FLC). For the five-year initial period, the FLCs will be topic-centered and focus on Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT) literacy. The ultimate outcome of the QEP is an ongoing program of FLCs that will give faculty members the knowledge, skills, and pedagogical support to improve their teaching and enhance the learning environment at the University. ICT literacy is the focus of the initial period because the QEP development process revealed that effective use of digital technology and information literacy concepts is important to the University community both for improving teaching and for preparing students for their futures.

The FLC is open to all tenured and tenure-track University of Miami faculty who are engaged in undergraduate teaching. The FLC will meet during the Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 semesters. The FLCs are foundational to the improvement of teaching and learning. Participants in the FLCs will apply what they learn to their teaching, coursework, and student assignments.

The University of Miami regards FLC membership as an acknowledgement of excellent, innovative, and effective teaching. Faculty members selected for the FLC will be designated FLC Fellows. They will have a one course teaching reduction in the Fall 2009 semester and receive a $1,500 research and educational fund to support their FLC work. Their contribution will be to participate fully in the FLC weekly discussions and workshops and in a virtual community at the University of Miami dedicated to the FLC. They also will be expected to incorporate ICT literacy concepts into an existing or new course and teach the enhanced course at least three times during the five years after their FLC is concluded.