

## University of Richmond Quality Enhancement Plan

### *Sophomore Scholars-in-Residence Program*

The Sophomore Scholars-in-Residence program is a collaborative living-learning community connecting curricular and residential life in order to:

- Promote academic excellence, critical thinking, and creativity through service, experimental, and innovative curricular and co-curricular activities both on and off campus;
- Foster the development of a supportive and inclusive community of diverse students, faculty and staff through sharing of common experiences in the living environment, field, seminars, and in the classroom;
- Develop students' communication skills, team-building skills and leadership skills through students teaching each other and working together on team projects;
- Create an environment that enhances student development as life-long leaders, citizens, scholars and professionals; and
- Change the dominant culture of undergraduate education by creating an overall experience that can be seen as a cumulative effort among faculty members and students to build a culture of collaboration, new knowledge, and innovation.

In the fall semester, students will take one of several course offerings. Each course will focus on a different thematic area. Courses will be designed to integrate active learning components into their curriculum so that learning will be collaborative, experiential, and problem-focused. By having a variety of disciplines in the program, students can explore potential majors and academic departments can recruit potential majors. All students in the program will live together in a new residence hall designed to support living-learning programs. The program faculty will hold out-of-class activities in the hall as well as in the local community. Living together will also foster community among students with common interests.

In the spring semester, students will develop a group project as part of a half-unit faculty-supervised course. At the end of the semester, participants will give oral presentations on their projects to the University community. The group projects will consist of one of the following: a project of publication or conference quality; a discovery project (research, art project, etc.); or a service learning project.

There will be a pool of resources equivalent to \$20,000 per course for faculty to use to support major course activities. These may include travel, field trips, prominent guest speakers, etc.

For program information contact: Dr. Joseph Kent ([jkent@richmond.edu](mailto:jkent@richmond.edu)), Interim Director through 6/09; Dr. Rick Mayes, [bmayes@richmond.edu](mailto:bmayes@richmond.edu), Director.

Link to the QEP document: <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/sacs/qep.htm>

Link to the program website: <http://blog.richmond.edu/ssir/main/>