



6200 College Avenue • Snyder, Texas 79549 • 325-573-8511  
1-888-GO-TO-WTC/www.wtc.edu

COMMISSION ON COLLEGES  
RECEIVED

AUG 7 2008

S. A. C. S.

August 4, 2008

Dr. Gerald D. Lord  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dr. Lord,

As requested please find the one page executive summary of the Quality Enhancement Plan for Western Texas College.

I appreciate your leadership and guidance through the reaffirmation process. If you have questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Dreith, President  
Western Texas College

QEP Title: Integrating Critical Thinking at the College Level

Institution Name: Western Texas College

QEP Director and Contact:

Mr. Britt Canada, Dean of Institutional Research and Technology

Phone: 325-574-7671

E-mail: bcanada@wtc.edu

### Executive Summary

Western Texas College views the implementation of its Quality Enhancement Plan, "Integrating Critical Thinking at the College Level," as a major opportunity to bring about broad, significant, and effective change to the entire educational landscape of the College.

In examining the Mission Statement of Western Texas College, the QEP Committee determined that the College is not meeting its commitment to develop student critical thinking skills. Upon reviewing the literature and discussing critical thinking problems and probable solutions at Western Texas College, the Critical Thinking Committee arrived at this definition of critical thinking for the College: **"Critical Thinking is the intentional process of questioning and evaluating problems, scenarios, and arguments in order to reach decisions that can be defended and explained."**

Having a working definition of critical thinking is essential to the goal setting process, and from this definition, the QEP Committee has formulated a single overarching goal: **The goal of the Western Texas College Quality Enhancement Plan is to facilitate, assess, and enhance critical thinking as a general education core competency.** To achieve this goal, the Committee identified the following objectives:

1. To provide critical thinking training to instructors and encourage instructors to implement critical thinking into their courses
2. To identify, apply and evaluate strategies which enhance student critical thinking skills
3. To sustain the critical thinking integration initiative.

The primary concern of the QEP Committee and the College is the student. The intended benefit of the QEP is to develop higher-order thinking in the students that will continue beyond graduation. The QEP will impact the entire campus culture by involving not only students and faculty, but staff and administration as well.