

Executive Summary

Motlow State Community College (MSCC) employed a deliberate, college-wide process, including meetings with and feedback from faculty, staff, administrators, students, and community constituents, to develop a data-informed Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that is timely, specific, sustainable, measurable, and achievable. These conversations enabled initially by the SACSCOC Leadership Team (reaffirmation steering committee) in January 2016 facilitated the development of a comprehensive QEP Steering Committee by August 2016. QUEST (Question, Use, Evaluate, Solve, and Test): Critical Thinking in the First Year Experience is a critical thinking QEP that reaches a significant number of MSCC students through the College's MSCC 1300: First Year Experience, a course "designed to empower students to reach their educational and career goals." An inclusive QEP Steering Committee, chaired by an MSCC faculty, examined feedback from presentations at each MSCC campus to focus on potential topics that could improve student performance, retention, persistence, progression to benchmarks, and graduation rates.

The QEP Steering Committee examined multiple years of ETS Proficiency Profile and Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) results, and coupled with feedback from the campus community, the Committee recognized a compelling need to emphasize and improve critical thinking skills of MSCC's graduates. For five academic years, culminating in 2016-2017, 4% or less of MSCC's graduates have scored "proficient" on the critical thinking component of the ETS Proficiency Profile, and MSCC's students have routinely scored below the mean for critical thinking questions on the CCSSE.

MSCC is committed to the successful implementation of QUEST in August 2017. As the QEP Steering Committee has evolved from the planning phase to implementation, the QEP Chair has become the QEP Director. The QEP Director also serves as the First Year Experience Coordinator, and in these dual roles, the QEP Director is poised, and well qualified, to oversee the QEP through its duration.

For further information on Motlow State's Quality Enhancement Plan, please contact: Meagan McManus, QEP Committee Chair, mmcmanus@mscc.edu or Dr. Scott Cook, Vice President of Quality Assurance and Performance Funding, scook@mscc.edu