Creating Community:
Using Innovative Activities to Encourage Cross-Campus Connections to Promote a QEP

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Session Abstract

• This session introduces participants to a variety of campus-wide activities to help promote and further embed a QEP into collegiate culture.
• Spartanburg Community College has implemented a variety of activities to help support our Informational Literacy QEP.
• Participants will see an overview of activities; participate in an activity; and brainstorm and share ideas.
Rationale and Relevance:

• The Quality Enhancement Plan should be a fun and engaging experience that brings all facets of the campus together.
• However, the greatest focus is the students.
• By using creative and fun ways to promote the QEP through library events, collaborations with Career Services, Student Activities, Admissions, and community connections, a QEP can provide the foundation for real change in a college’s culture.
• A strong QEP should become a foundational aspect of your students’ educational and institutional experience.

Session Outline

I. Brief introduction and overview of the QEP
II. Overview and introduction of activities
   • Faculty: QEP Day, training, norming sessions faculty reunion breakfast
   • Current students: library events in partnership with Student Activities (Murder Mystery, Recycle Challenge, Debunk the Junk, Mad Scientist); Career Events in partnership with Career Services; Student Research Symposium
   • New Students: exposure to the QEP via Student Admissions Board and new student packets
   • Faculty, Students, and Community: Fake News Panel with local journalists
III. Brainstorm ideas
IV. Brief lessons learned/faculty buy-in
V. Q&A
Participant Learning Outcomes

I. Enhance attendees’ understanding by participating in an activity example

II. Identify ways to create innovative activities for their own campuses

III. Collaborate through Think-Pair-Share activity ideas

IV. Develop original activities or borrow suggestions for their own campuses based on ideas presented

Spartanburg Community College

• Located in Upstate, South Carolina
• Approx. 3,000 FTE (4,600 head count)
• Serves 3 counties with 5 campuses
• Offers arts and sciences, business technology, health & human services, engineering and industrial technology programs
Information Literacy

“The set of skills needed to find, access, retrieve, analyze, synthesize and use information effectively and ethically.”

(AACC, 2008)

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Access information from appropriate sources,
2. Evaluate information and its sources critically,
3. Combine information from different sources to accomplish a purpose, and
4. Properly use and give credit to original sources of information.

SCC’s QEP:
Need it? Find it! Evaluate it! Put it to work! Cite it!
Students will:
• Be better prepared to use information to accomplish tasks,
• Report confidence in their information literacy skills, and
• Report that they are better prepared to transition to the world of work.

Faculty will:
• Improve assignments that require information literacy skills, and
• Report confidence in students’ mastery of information literacy skills.

Employers will:
• Report an increase in SCC graduates’ ability to use information and solve problems to accomplish tasks.

Faculty Activities
QEP Day

- All College Faculty Professional Development Day
- Speaker: Michele Van Hoeck (Project Information Literacy)
  Dean of the Library
  California State University Maritime Academy

Faculty Training Workshops

- Instructors participated in a series of workshops or an online course
- Designed to improve assignments that require IL skills
- And infuse IL concepts into their courses.
Norming Sessions

- Faculty submit student artifacts (from IL research assignment) to QEP group for evaluation and feedback.

Faculty Reunion Breakfast

- Instructors who participated in training are invited back to an annual breakfast “reunion”
- We share ideas, reconnect, and provide feedback on IL infusion in the courses.
- “Reunite, Re-energize, and Re-engage!”
Current Student Activities

Career and Student Resource Events

• In partnership with Career Services and Student Activities, the QEP has a booth each year at our Student Resource Fair. We provide pens and notepads for the Career Fairs.

• As we promote the QEP, students receive giveaways like QEP bags to help them “collect” other information.
Library Events

• Murder Mystery
• Earth Day
• Debunk the Junk
• Mad Scientist

Murder Mystery

• Fall 2017
• Researched Based Quiz Game
• Loosely based on the board game Clue
Earth Day

• Spring 2018
• Message in a Bottle: Plastic Recycling Quiz Game
• Students researched the topic of recycling plastics to answer a set of questions, which they put into a plastic bottle, and left in a recycle bin.

Fake News Quiz Game

• Fall 2018 theme for library events was “Fake News”
• Quiz created in Google Forms
• Junk food snacks
Mad Scientist Citation Game

- Spring 2019
- Students selected the most reliable sources of information for a scientific paper

Student Research Symposium

- Spring 2019
- 49 students from Computer Science, ASL, Speech, English, Political Science, and Art participated in research presentations
- Three Psychology students prepared posters for display.
New Student Activities

Exposure to the QEP

- Student Admissions Board
- New Student Packets
- Bookmarks in Book Inn, Tutorial Learning Center, Libraries
- Banners on campus
Faculty, Students & Community Activity

Journalist Panel

- News Panel Discussion
- Panopto Link
Brainstorm Ideas

• Take a few minutes to brainstorm ideas for activities at your own campuses
• Make notes of your ideas to review after the conference

Brainstorm Ideas

• Collaborate & share ideas with your table
• Share innovative activity ideas with the room
Lessons Learned & Faculty Buy-In

4) Which topics or aspects of the QEP training did you find most valuable?
0 responses
- synthesis
- interesting publishing cycle of information
- lesson on search retrieval of education curriculum
- how to incorporate synthesis and evaluation
- assignment design
- database information
- activities for IL
- available data bases
- no suggestions
- synthesizing information

5) What did you find least valuable during the training?
9 responses
- the conference
- all sessions veered toward pedagogical instruction
- it was all good
- I found that all of it was valuable. I can’t name any
- MLA
- N/A
- nothing
- no suggestions
- it was all informative

7) Do you have suggestions for making the QEP training more effective?
9 responses
- no (2)
- more time for assignment design and infusion
- spend more time organizing assignment guidelines with more models
- maybe break out sessions by discipline;
- no
- no suggestions; have a nice summer
- clearly communicate training expectations
Engagement/Buy in...

- Teaching information literacy would take valuable class time away from faculty’s subject area.
- Faculty weren’t volunteers.
- Faculty are very busy already, and our QEP training was an intense additional project.

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Down the Road...

- Long-term momentum
- Continued logistics
- Following up with everyone
- Communication

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Questions?