

Executive Summary

The mission of Angelina College is to provide quality educational opportunities and services to aid students in reaching their full potential. The College has developed a quality enhancement plan, *MASS Learning Community (Math Achievement and Student Support)*, designed to accelerate college readiness in math and increase student engagement in comprehensive support services. The QEP topic emerged from a broad-based institutional process that involved solicited input from students, faculty, and staff and a review of institutional data and best practices.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness administered a campus-wide survey to obtain suggestions regarding how Angelina College could improve student learning. Based on the issues that emerged from the survey, representatives from all six instructional divisions, academic and student support services, and off-campus learning centers convened to form the QEP Development Committee. The committee conducted focus groups with students, faculty, and staff addressing the emerging issues identified in the survey.

Angelina College's participation in two success initiatives contributed to the identification of the QEP topic. In 2005, AC began tracking student engagement using data collected from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE). A review of the biennial data revealed a trend of low levels of student engagement in support services which was directly impacting retention and graduation rates. In 2011, the College participated in the Student Success by the Numbers Initiative (SSBTN), which was designed to assist Texas community colleges in understanding and communicating student success and institutional performance data. The data compiled by the College included the performance data of first-time college students enrolled in developmental courses. Over half of the students in the cohort were enrolled in the developmental math course (MATH 0310) with nearly 30% required to repeat the course. Based on CCSSE data, the SSBTN cohort tracking of developmental student performance, and a review of best practices, Angelina College students taking developmental math courses should benefit from a more structured, holistic pathway to success. This notion was reinforced by the vision of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to address the individualized needs of underprepared students and the development of the new Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) in 2013.

The intent of Angelina College is to provide a path to success in math by providing a collaborative and supportive learning environment thus expanding the opportunity to complete the developmental math sequence and diminishing the cycle of repeaters. The *MASS Learning Community* encompasses the following goals:

- Provide a path to success in math, accelerating college readiness for first-time, first-year MATH 0310 students
- Increase student engagement in support services for first-time, first-year MATH 0310 students to foster success.

Providing first-time, first-year students enrolled in developmental math the opportunity to succeed is the central focus of the *MASS Learning Community*. During their initial fall semester, eligible students will be enrolled in the paired courses MATH 0310 (Basic Math), a required math lab, and STSU 0300 (Student Success). The pairing of STSU 0300 with MATH 0310 serves to provide the foundation for collaborative learning and additional support for math instruction. The development of study skills and integration of support services in the *MASS Learning Community* is also facilitated by the inclusion of STSU 0300. Angelina College has identified an area in the Science and Mathematics Division that will house the *MASS Learning Community*. Referenced as the Center for Math Achievement and Student Support (C-MASS), this area will be furnished with twenty-four computers with hideaway desks to accommodate both the instructional and lab aspects of the learning community. Based on their degree plans, MASS students who complete MATH 0310 will be clustered in either the MATH 0320 (Introductory Algebra) or MATH 0325 (Intermediate Algebra) courses in the spring with their same math instructor who taught MATH 0310 in the fall. This option will allow the students in the learning community to receive math instruction from the same instructor, sustain the connection to their peers and collaborative practices, and assist with the transition of learning with other students in math classes. Implemented in phases through 2019, the *MASS Learning Community* will operate on the main campus and the off-campus learning centers. In support of the *MASS Learning Community*, Angelina College has developed a comprehensive multi-year budget, identified key personnel to implement the project, and developed an assessment plan that will provide data on the progress of the QEP.

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