



R U Thnkn? Think Smarter: A Quality Enhancement Plan in Problem Solving

Jeff Kornegay, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services; Accreditation Liaison
Twyla Davis, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning, tdavis@bladencc.edu

The Bladen Community College (BCC) Mission Statement reflects the College's commitment to quality teaching, to higher-order learning, to enhancing opportunities, and to providing a safe, sustainable learning environment. For this reason, the College selected problem solving as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic and designed a plan that will enhance student learning and meet student needs. The QEP'S focus is to improve students' problem solving skills through appropriate instruction and resources.

Two faculty members served as QEP co-chairs and members of the SACS/COC Leadership Team. The co-chairs collected data, presented information, and led discussions with faculty, staff, students, and other college constituents to select a topic and a focus. Five committees developed the QEP action plan. The committee chairs constituted the QEP Leadership Team, which finalized the plan and the QEP document.

The process begins with professional development for faculty who will provide instruction and resources necessary to guide students in instructional settings. The next phase of the plan includes providing this instruction and resources to the students. Problem solving requires identifying a problem, constructing solutions to the problem, and choosing the best solution for the problem. Knowing that BCC students need to see action when facing challenges, the faculty chose to teach and demonstrate the 4P problem solving action plan: Plan, Prepare, Practice, and Produce. Over the five-year period, all college courses will teach and practice the 4P action plan.

The QEP uses direct and indirect assessments to measure faculty involvement in professional development sessions and students' progress in developing problem solving skills. Professional development, course syllabi, and sample assignments will assess faculty participation in and contribution to the QEP. The Test of Everyday Reasoning, completed assignments, and student surveys will assess students' strengths and weaknesses in problem solving and measure their progress in developing these skills.