



Blue Mountain College

Blue Mountain, MS 38610

The CARE Project

Enhancing Student Learning through Collaboration, Active Learning, Course Redesign, and Engagement

The *CARE Project: Enhancing Student Learning through Collaboration, Active Learning, Redesign, and Engagement* is designed to improve students' critical thinking and teamwork skills through an emphasis on collaboration and active learning.

The CARE Project addresses deficits in student performance revealed by the ETS Proficiency Profile, the *Senior Exit Survey*, and the *Undergraduate Course Evaluation*. By implementing *The CARE Project*, Blue Mountain College is addressing institutional quality and effectiveness while strengthening student learning, thus aligning the selected QEP topic with SACSCOC stated outcomes. *The CARE Project* is an outgrowth of the Institution's Mission, Purpose Statement, and Strategic Goals.

The CARE Project addresses stated objectives of the Institution's Core Curriculum as it focuses on improving students' ability to think critically and their ability to engage in team-building and cooperative efforts. Originally, these two objectives were measured by the *ETS Proficiency Profile* and the *Student Satisfaction Survey* respectively. However, *The CARE Project*, with its utilization of the *Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric* and the *Teamwork VALUE Rubric*, will strengthen the assessment of these core curriculum objectives more thoroughly and empirically.

The mission of BMC states, "Blue Mountain College assists students in developing intellectual integrity, academic excellence, civility, and Christian character." *The CARE Project* speaks directly to academic excellence by enhancing student engagement and the intellectual rigor of coursework. The cooperative learning methods emphasized by *The CARE Project* are designed to help students develop the civility and empathy required of Christian scholars. Because instructors of redesigned courses will also hold students accountable for attending each class session prepared to take ownership of the learning process, *The CARE Project* will help students develop intellectual integrity.

The five-year plan is managed by the Director of the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), a technology-equipped learning lab which provides academic support for students and faculty. All full-time faculty are involved in the course redesign effort. Within five years, BMC will have completed the redesign of at least 60% of all on-ground courses, each including a high-stakes critical thinking project and a high-stakes teamwork project. With an emphasis on creating significant learning outcomes in six areas (foundational knowledge, application, integration, human dimension, caring, and metacognition), *The CARE Project* focuses not on coverage of content but on meaningful student learning outcomes.

Dr. Delise Teague, Director

Teaching & Learning Center

dteague@bmc.edu

BECAUSE WE CARE!

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