

BASICS: Building All Students' Intrinsic Communication Skills Central Carolina Community College

During its 46-year history, Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) has garnered respect and trust and has established itself as an integral part of the community. The Quality Enhancement Plan will bolster the college's longstanding commitment to those it serves by better equipping students for their college experience, their professional careers, and their personal lives.

CCCC's Quality Enhancement Plan, BASICS: Building All Students' Intrinsic Communication Skills, is a project designed to broaden learning by developing students' written communication skills. The college has adopted a long-term vision for life skill development that includes multiple skills; however, the QEP is sharply focused on four specific outcomes. Graduates will be able to:

1. Write with a clear purpose appropriate to the audience
2. Write in an organized and logical fashion
3. Accurately support main ideas
4. Use Standard English

Strategies designed to support the outcomes are:

- Emphasize writing in all disciplines
- Develop and implement a mentor program
- Provide development opportunities for faculty and staff
- Create and maintain an online repository of resources

The project will encompass all curricular programs allowing for widespread involvement, a consistent process across all programs, efficiency in resources, and more significant results. The QEP coordinator, faculty mentors, and the Assessment Alliance are key leaders of the project.

Multiple measures will indicate if the four project outcomes are achieved. Direct assessment will involve the Cognitive Level and Quality Writing Assessment (CLAQWA) and the WritePlacer test. Both tools will compare student performance at the beginning and near or at the end of the CCCC experience. In addition, CCCC student WritePlacer scores will be compared with student scores at comparable two-year institutions. Indirect assessment will include the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), the Community College Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (CCFSSE), student focus groups, writing lab usage, and several student and employer surveys.

The college considers effective writing skills as vital to student success as the discipline-specific content taught in its classrooms everyday. This project will ensure that written communication skill development and assessment will be an explicit and ongoing part of every student's college experience.

For more information contact:

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