



Centre College
Quality Enhancement Plan: *Creative Centre*

Centre College's mission is to prepare students for lives of learning, leadership, and service. As a campus community, we are constantly reflecting on our practices and searching for new ways to fulfill our mission. To that end, our Quality Enhancement Plan, *Creative Centre*, is an effort to provide students with the creative thinking skills needed to meet society's complex and ever-changing challenges. *Creative Centre* has a vision statement, two goals, and six student learning outcomes.

Creative thinking enables problem solving in daily life and opens the door to more interesting and productive lives. Creative thinking enables not just new inventions, programs, or breakthroughs in understanding, but provides a means for addressing pressing social problems and adapting to ever changing demands. In a time when complexity itself is identified as a leading challenge, the ability to navigate ambiguity, take risks, see new connections, communicate with diverse audiences, and reflect upon one's own work increases in importance.

Creative Centre is the result of intentional discussions among students, faculty, and staff about reinforcing the place of creative thinking on our campus. After much work as a community, *Creative Centre* emerged as the following initiatives: Learn, Inquire, and Network at Centre (LINC), Creative Thinking Immersion Program (Creative TIP), Creative Campus, Creative Commons Series, Creative Centre Pedagogy Workshop, and Creative Centre Faculty Fellow Program. Of course, faculty continue to be encouraged to make creative thinking an important part of their work at Centre – both in and out of the classroom. LINC involves sets of two thematically linked courses from two different disciplines during the long term. Students and faculty are present for both courses, and material is integrated across disciplinary boundaries. Creative TIP involves students working as a team to think through the creative thinking process by identifying and investigating a problem or issue that is of interest to them and the greater community. A pair of faculty and staff members is available to advise them throughout the process. Creative Campus involves a process whereby students can imagine and plan new outdoor spaces that, in some way, foster creative thinking, active problem-solving, and reflection. Creative Commons Series involves a number of programs that bring the community together to talk and reflect on successes and failures in problem solving. This may include activities like CRED (Creative Endeavors) Talks where members of the community give a campus-wide talk about intellectual risk-taking, Creative Thinking Luncheons to foster discussions among faculty and staff about the development, articulation, and implementation of creative thinking processes in our own work, Class Visit Opportunities for faculty and staff, and a Faculty/Staff Symposium where faculty and staff can present short talks about their own research and professional endeavors. The Creative Centre Pedagogy Workshop will allow colleagues to come together with one another, and with a leading expert in creative thinking, to discuss the (re)design of learning experiences to emphasize creative thinking. The Creative Centre Faculty Fellow will provide resources for faculty colleagues to undertake significant research projects that enhance our understanding and application of creative thinking pedagogies.

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