

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Guide the Pride to Success: Enhancing the Student Learning  
Environment through Personalized Navigation  
East Mississippi Community College  
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The goal of the QEP is to affect the learning environment in order to reduce persistent problems of student attrition and non-completion which impact student learning. EMCC's graduation rates have surpassed national averages for the past seven years. However, the full-time and part-time cohort graduation rates and student retention rates have fluctuated just below the national averages for the past three years. Institutional remedies for addressing deficits in the student learning environment have thus far been short-lived and scattered, and consequently, ineffective. Through this QEP, EMCC hopes to create an effective and sustainable solution that can be implemented college-wide.

Personalized navigation will allow the college to provide better support and direction to individual students' success in college. The program will facilitate the development of student responsibility, readiness, and resourcefulness. Personalized navigation will help students make informed career choices and provide context and motivation when facing challenges. Students will gain an increased focus on multi-term academic planning, which will help them learn the benefit of long-term planning for education and career. The QEP will also promote an institutional culture focused on advising students. It will facilitate the integration of student support services into the overall environment of student learning. The plan will require the collection of data regarding student needs, performance, and satisfaction which will be used for future institutional decisions, programs, and policies. Assessment of program outcomes will allow for expanded abilities to evaluate student performance at an individual level.

EMCC is committed to student success as evident in the mission of being "dedicated to improving the quality of life for our students, our community, and our personnel through instructional opportunities, with specific focus on a healthy mind, body, and spirit."