

QEP Executive Summary
Elizabethtown Community and Technical College

PASS: Personalized Advising for Student Success

In Spring 2007 the college began soliciting and narrowing possible topics for its Quality Enhancement Plan. Employees and students participated in focus groups, surveys, and unit meetings—culminating in an all-campus topic selection event in January 2008. The topic that received highest priority from faculty, staff, and students was **improving academic advising**.

With ECTC's mission as "a comprehensive open access community and technical college that prepares people to live and work in a constantly changing world," academic advising is paramount in helping our students achieve their educational and career goals. The needs of the students who attend ECTC vary from completing their general education core before transferring to another college or university to those who seek to complete an associate degree or diploma at ECTC and then enter the workforce. Additionally, the college serves a significant population of developmental students, so careful and caring academic advising can make the difference between staying in school and dropping out. Data collected at the college through external and internal student surveys revealed room for improvement in the academic advising process on campus. So this opportunity to focus our efforts toward creating a personalized academic advising program at ECTC is embraced as a worthy topic for our Quality Enhancement Plan.

After a careful review of the literature and supporting data, the college developed a plan to encourage motivated, self-directed learners. **PASS: Personalized Advising for Student Success**, which has as its focus strengthening the environment supporting student learning, will improve academic advising through three major initiatives: (a) promoting student success through new student orientation, (b) improving advisor training through professional development, and (c) improving student success to personalized advising through the establishment of an advising center.

For additional information on ECTC's QEP, please contact Ms. Katrina Eicher, Professor, Chairman of QEP Committee and author of QEP, at katrina.eicher@kctcs.edu.