

**GEORGE C. WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN**

WE GIVE A HOOT ABOUT MATH: HOOKED ON OUTRAGEOUS TECHNOLOGY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wallace Community College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) emerged from an on-going and broad-based conversation with College stakeholders, including faculty and staff members, administrators, students, and the community. The goal of the QEP is to improve student performance and success rates in developmental mathematics courses by redesigning Basic Mathematics (MTH 090), Developmental Algebra I (MTH 091), and Developmental Algebra II (MTH 092).

To achieve this goal, the QEP focuses on the following objectives:

- (1) To ensure that knowledge and skills learned in a developmental mathematics course are adequate for success in the gateway mathematics course, Intermediate Algebra (MTH 100).
- (2) To establish programs and services to strengthen students' developmental mathematics skills and knowledge.
- (3) To implement tools, policies, and methods enabling students to improve their study behavior in mathematics courses.

To reach these objectives, the QEP incorporates a major course redesign, using emporium-style mastery learning facilitated with a cutting-edge technology platform, Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS). Pedagogical modifications also include a flexible self-paced system of advancement through the developmental mathematics material, allowing those that master skills to move on and those needing remediation more time on task. Developmental mathematics material will be modularized into more manageable "chunks" of information to aid student learning and offer students a motivating sense of accomplishment as they progress through the new system.

The plan also incorporates more financial and human resources. Each of the two campuses of the College will feature a high-tech developmental math lab, staffed by a lab director, which will serve as an extension of the classroom. Through ALEKS, students will receive immediate feedback and frequent assessment. In addition, students will have more one-on-one interaction with instructors, case workers, and student tutors. Instructors and case workers will carefully monitor student progress and identify students likely to have difficulty with the new method of instruction, and student tutors will provide peer support.

The QEP will proceed in phases, launching on the Sparks Campus with redesigned MTH 091 courses in fall 2011 and redesigned MTH 092 courses in spring 2012. The redesigned course format will proceed on the Wallace Campus in academic year 2012-2013, beginning with MTH 091 courses in fall 2012 and continuing with MTH 092 courses in spring 2013. These two courses were chosen as the pilot courses because they have the highest enrollment of all the College's developmental math courses, and their redesign will have the greatest impact on student success. However, once proven successful with MTH 091 and 092, MTH 090 and MTH 100 will integrate this method as well.