

# HILL COLLEGE QEP: *Solving Problems One Step at a Time*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*The purpose of Hill College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Solving Problems One Step at a Time," is to improve students' problem solving skills in the core curriculum thereby enhancing student learning outcomes.*

Hill College has developed this QEP to address the problem solving skills of its students in the core curriculum. The importance of critical thinking was initially identified through college-wide discussions, surveys of faculty and staff, focus groups among students, input from community members, and a review of internal data. Subsequent to the SACS on-site visit in October 2010, the topic was focused even further to a Problem Solving approach to Critical Thinking.

Student learning outcomes have been clearly identified with measurable criteria for success. A full assessment plan includes both formative and summative assessment activities. Assessment of the plan is ongoing as implementation of the plan progresses and 'best practices' modifications will be made for continuous improvement.

Implementation of the plan occurs over four phases, beginning in the academic year 2010-2011. Activities focus on professional development to prepare the faculty to model problem solving to their students; an active Faculty Learning Community that will pilot activities in core courses and define a problem solving model for the College; and on comprehensive assessment activities.

Hill College will support the QEP activities by allocating financial and human resources for implementation. Administrative and academic support will provide for the multi-year implementation strategy and the impact of the QEP on the College curriculum.

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