



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Howard College entitled **HC LEADS...Your Way: Learn, Experience, Achieve Defined Success** is a first year experience that focuses on preparing students to be successful in college and in life by instilling skills that can be utilized in academics, career development, and community involvement. Through the review of institutional effectiveness data, student, faculty, and staff input, as well as educational best practices, Howard College has determined that the development of a first year experience with a three prong approach will equip students with skills that will lead to their success at Howard College, will prepare them for advancement to a four year institution and/or the workforce, and will give them experiences and skills that will lead to success in life.

The Howard College motto – “For Learning, For Earning, For Life!” – will serve as the backbone for the program and ties directly back to the institution’s mission of building communities through quality, innovative education for lifelong learning. The program will initially serve a target population of first time in college, full time, college-ready students and has three essential goals:

- 1) Students will demonstrate necessary skills to successfully complete their first year of college
- 2) Students will engage in career and academic planning
- 3) Students will engage in campus and community activities and service work

In order to achieve these goals, the following activities will be implemented:

### **For Learning:**

- Mandatory student success course (LEADS Course) in the fall and spring semester with specific student learning outcomes incorporated throughout the course
- Ongoing guidance from faculty and staff coaches and mentors in the career based learning clusters
- LEADS plan completion

### **For Earning:**

- Career exploration
- Academic and career path plan development
- Interaction with professionals in career based learning cluster activities

### **For Life:**

- Engagement in college and community life
- Community involvement through service work
- Experiential learning

As the program develops, the target population will expand to include all first time in college students. The plan includes involvement from a wide variety of institutional stakeholders who are committed to the success of the program and will provide students with direct access to coaches and mentors throughout the program. In order to evaluate the success of LEADS, Howard College will implement a full assessment and evaluation plan that encompasses both direct and indirect measurements that will include surveys, assessment of learning outcomes, pre-post tests, and a capstone project evaluating experiential learning.

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