

## HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Huston-Tillotson University Quality Enhancement Plan is the *ACADEMY*. The *ACADEMY* is an acronym ***Achievement in College Algebra During the Matriculation Year***. The goal of the *ACADEMY* is to equip students with the conceptual understanding and computational proficiency for success in the foundational mathematics courses, specifically MATH 0330 Introduction to Algebra and MATH 1314 College Algebra. The *ACADEMY* is committed to active learning strategies, enhanced student support services, and innovation in curriculum design. The campus community expressed a broad-based desire to provide support services to improve learning and teaching across campus. The QEP Writing Team drew upon institutional research to distill the disciplinary area that might benefit most from focused attention. The team identified the Introduction to Algebra and the College Algebra courses as two obstacles to academic achievement and possibly to student persistence. Institutional data from the 2006-07 academic year indicated only 29% of the students in Introduction to Algebra and only 36% of the students in College Algebra completed the course with a grade of C or better. The University refined the plan by reviewing literature, consulting with experts in the field, and collecting data from a Spring 2009 pilot course.

The *ACADEMY* encourages mathematics faculty members to engage in varied instructional methods which result in observable learning in the classroom. Through an innovative curriculum design, some students will have the opportunity to accelerate their learning in a course which will combine five weeks of Introduction to Algebra content review followed by nine weeks of College Algebra content. This design provides intensive, five-days per week instruction. Additionally, students will receive support outside of class with increased tutoring services, seminars on study skills, and improved learning spaces.

The success of the *ACADEMY* is assessed at several levels: a common course exam on specific student learning outcomes, student use and satisfaction of support services, and faculty members' use of active learning strategies. An advisory board will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the program each year.

The University anticipates the *ACADEMY* will have wide-spread impact as College Algebra is a required course in HT's general education curriculum and provides foundational skills for more advanced courses in several majors and minors.

### Contact Information

Stephanie A. Bond Huie, PhD  
Interim Associate Provost  
512-505-3076  
ssbond-huie@htu.edu