

Executive Summary  
Jarvis Christian College  
Quality Enhancement Plan

The Jarvis Christian College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), also known as Jarvis Students TACKling Reading(JSTAR), focuses on enhancing student learning by promoting improved reading comprehension skills and increasing academic vocabulary. These goals support Jarvis Christian College’s mission and strategic plan.

The QEP evolved from a series of discussions with stakeholders about developing a more robust academic environment and identifying challenges to student learning. Faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the Jarvis Christian College Board of Trustees, and the community were all surveyed to determine the topic.

As a historically Black institution, Jarvis Christian College’s student population is comprised of mainly first generation college students from low socioeconomic families. These students face many challenges in their transition from high school to college and need active intervention from faculty and staff to survive the rigors of college life.

According to ACT, Inc.(2006), only 51% of 2005 ACT-tested high school graduates are ready for college-level reading. Research indicates that 80% of college work is reading (Simpson & Nist, 2000). According to “Reading between the Lines: What the ACT Reveals about College Readiness in Reading” (ACT, Inc., 2005), reading is an essential component of college and workplace readiness. Therefore, a plan was designed that would enhance students’ reading skills to lay the foundation for college and career success. The JSTAR plan will improve student success by improving student reading comprehension skills and academic vocabulary. Information collected from stakeholders identified and supported research on proficiency in reading and writing as the most important skills students need to be successful both in college and in the world of work.

JSTAR has two major goals and defines student learning outcomes to address this challenge.

Goal 1 Students will read a variety of texts with comprehension.

Goal 2 Students will broaden academic vocabulary.

In addition, the plan calls for a Phase-In to continue utilizing reading comprehension and academic vocabulary in the students’ programs of study. By the end of the four-year plan, the level of reading and vocabulary of Jarvis Christian College students should increase thus giving students a firm foundation for their future.

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