

QEP Executive Summary
Jones County Junior College

Creating a Task FORCE for Reading Apprenticeship

A campus-wide survey at Jones County Junior College (JCJC) indicated widespread perception of a strong need for improving student reading comprehension ability across disciplines. An analysis of ACT reading sub scores for incoming freshman confirmed that in fact a majority of JCJC students need continued literacy support even through their college years. An extensive research base supports the notion that exemplary community college content area instructors are in the most effective position for teaching both course content and reading process in order to teach depth of knowledge and apply reading comprehension skills in context.

JCJC's QEP will be implemented through three major initiatives:

- Providing faculty professional development in Reading Apprenticeship
- Fostering a positive attitude toward reading in students and instructors
- Establishing ongoing support systems for students and instructors

The dual focus of JCJC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) includes strengthening student reading comprehension ability across disciplines by developing a task force of instructors who have completed the Leadership Institute in Reading Apprenticeship (LIRA) *trainer of trainers* experience. Over a five year period, if research supports and resources allow, at least one faculty member from each of JCJC's eight academic divisions will be LIRA trained. LIRA trained instructors will be responsible for assisting other faculty in using the RA framework as a guide for classroom instructional practice, embedding content area reading support within eleven general education core courses. These courses are: Biology I and II, College Algebra, Composition I and II, Economics I, General Psychology, Music Appreciation, Western Civilization I and II, and World Literature.

Efforts to address student and instructor attitudes toward reading and to support student and instructor learning include student and instructor book clubs, student content area reading workshops, and a variety of continuous professional development opportunities for faculty.

For additional information on JCJC's QEP, please contact Dr. Laverne Ulmer, Director of Institutional Effectiveness, at laverne.ulmer@jcjc.edu or Patti Smith, QEP Co-Chair, at patti.smith@jcjc.edu.