

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lander University effort to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) began in September 2005 with the appointment of an initial QEP Committee. The committee was charged with engaging Lander stakeholders in developing a program that would enrich student learning and have the support of a large segment of the Lander community. Input from the major stakeholders led the committee to consider five constructs as the focus for the QEP. In a subsequent survey, stakeholders selected experiential learning as the focus for Lander University's Quality Enhancement Plan. In the spring of 2006, President Ball, the University's SACS Leadership Team, and the Board of Trustees accepted a recommendation that Lander's QEP focus on experiential learning.

The QEP committee began developing the specific proposal in fall 2006. The program is focused on a formal process for engaging Lander students in experiential learning activities. The program, titled *The Lander EYE (Experience Your Education)*, will provide a structure for organizing and delivering real-world learning experiences. These experiences will enhance students' abilities to address real-world challenges and engage in professional growth. Faculty development and linkages with community members will be important features of the EYE Program.

The EYE program will be managed by Ms. Leah Hughes, Director of Experiential Education, who will develop policies and procedures as guided by the EYE Program Oversight Committee. The EYE Director will implement the program and will be responsible for developing and assessing activities related to the program. The Director will be responsible for conducting formative and summative program evaluations to ensure the program is meeting the expectations of all stakeholders and supports the University's mission and strategic goals.

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