



## *Think Outside the Books: Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity*

The purpose of the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) QEP is to nurture intellectual curiosity in MUW students. The MUW QEP defines the intellectually-curious learner as one with a genuine desire for knowledge that leads to independent exploration. Intellectually-curious students find satisfaction in producing knowledge through active problem solving. Additionally, they understand the need for thorough analyses that result in distinguishing relevant from irrelevant information and that generate clearly-communicated solutions. In order to enhance the intellectual curiosity of MUW students, *Think Outside the Books: Cultivating Intellectual Curiosity* will implement Active Learning, Problem-Based Learning, and Inquiry-Based Learning (APIL) pedagogies to teach and reinforce the multiple learning skills needed to become an active learner.

The goals, objectives, student learning outcomes (SLOs), and benchmarks of the MUW QEP were developed as a result of baseline CLA+, NSSE, and Need for Cognition Scale (NCS) data on MUW students as well as information gathered from the MUW faculty during multiple listening sessions as the QEP was developed. Based on the information gathered, the following QEP overarching goals were established:

Goal 1: Increase student intellectual curiosity to improve student success.

Goal 2: Incorporate effective APIL strategies in MUW academic and co-curricular programs.

Goal 1 of the QEP includes three objectives and five SLOs. Goal 2 includes three objectives and five benchmarks. The SLOs and benchmarks will be assessed at the university and program levels using direct and indirect assessment methods. The CLA+ Analysis and Problem Solving and Writing Effectiveness results, specific NSSE items, and the NCS results will be used as national standardized measures. Student Focus Groups and instruments developed at the program level will provide program-specific assessment information.

Implementation of the MUW QEP will occur by focusing on two colleges in year one of the QEP and two colleges in year two. APIL Specialists will be designated in each college and will serve to help identify and promote active learning strategies in the programs of their colleges. The QEP Team, which includes representatives from all campus constituencies, will be responsible for oversight of the QEP implementation. The QEP Team, along with the newly-established Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), will provide faculty development initiatives to enhance student engagement across campus.

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