

QEP Executive Summary
For Northwest Mississippi Community College

Moving Mathematical Mountains

A need at Northwest Mississippi Community College that has been identified repeatedly through the strategic planning process is the increase of student success and the enhancement of student learning in the developmental mathematics courses and in College Algebra. Students often fail to graduate in their majors at Northwest because they are unable to succeed in College Algebra, which is a core course. The Quality Enhancement Plan “Moving Mathematical Mountains” addresses this need.

The focus of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to move such mathematical mountains as background deficiencies, student apathy for the subject, test anxiety, and improper placement of students. These challenges are addressed through five initiatives of the plan which include Frequent Assessment, Advising and Placement, Improving Attitudes toward Math, Technology in Classrooms, and Help in Support Labs – with the five initiatives represented by FAITH. The primary goal of the QEP is to improve student learning in mathematics.

Efforts under “Advising and Placement” include conducting enhanced placement training for instructors, revising placement tests, using math “hot-line” advisors for all divisions, and providing Math Jump Start summer workshops for students. Some of the efforts in “Improving Attitudes in Mathematics” include beginning a Mathematics Club, presenting faculty development sessions on math anxiety, promoting “Math Across the Curriculum” projects, and developing an exciting math webpage. Computerized classroom instruction has been implemented as an effort under “Technology in Classrooms.” Finally, efforts toward making friendly, free, supportive mathematics labs on all campuses have been planned under the “Help through Support Labs” initiative.

When the QEP is fully implemented, it is expected to have a positive impact on all the developmental mathematics students and many of the College Algebra students at Northwest which includes more than 3000 students per year and half of the College’s enrollment. For additional information on the QEP, you may contact either QEP Co-Chair: Dr. Gwen P. Aldridge, Director of Planning and Research at gpaldridge@northwestms.edu; or Charlotte Alexander, Math Chairman at caalexander@northwestms.edu.