



## Pellissippi State Community College Quality Enhancement Plan

The purpose of Pellissippi State Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan, "Strong to the Core," is to improve student learning outcomes in core curriculum areas. We hope to accomplish this by increasing student engagement in targeted courses through employing active learning strategies. The targeted core curriculum areas and courses are writing (ENGL 1010 English Composition I), mathematics (MATH 1130 College Algebra), and oral communication (SPCH 2100 Public Speaking).

The process of selecting the QEP began in August of 2009 with the appointment of representatives from the faculty, staff, and administration of the College to the QEP Selection Committee, which was charged with gathering input from all constituencies of the College and selecting a topic for the QEP. Once the topic was chosen, a new committee consisting primarily of faculty—the QEP Design Team—was charged with refining the QEP topic and developing and testing an action plan. In August 2011 the QEP director was chosen; and the Implementation Team, consisting of the director, an assessment coordinator, and a coordinator for each core subject area, began piloting a limited number of active learning strategies in selected class sections. The QEP will be expanded to additional sections of the core courses in fall 2012 and across the college curriculum by the fifth year of implementation. Faculty who are teaching the targeted courses are trained by the implementation team to incorporate and assess the effectiveness of the active learning strategies they have employed.

The Implementation Team identified the following measurable learning outcomes to be achieved by the QEP initiative:

- English Composition students will, with a minimum of 70% competency, write clear, well-organized, and sufficiently developed analyses.
- Public Speaking students will, with a minimum of 74% competency, plan, research, and present an effective persuasive speech.
- College Algebra students will, with a minimum of 70% competency, develop mathematical problem solving skills by modeling real world behavior in mathematics and other disciplines and applying mathematical concepts to real-life problems.

Assessment measures implemented in the pilot course sections have shown that not only have the engagement activities strengthened student competency in the targeted learning objectives; but overall, students have found the activities to be beneficial to them, valuable to the educational process, and engaging.

Contacts:	Lois G. Reynolds	Nancy Pevey
	Asst VP of Academic Affairs, SACS Liaison	QEP Director
	<a href="mailto:lreynolds@pstcc.edu">lreynolds@pstcc.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:npevey@pstcc.edu">npevey@pstcc.edu</a>
	865.694.6693	865.539.7053
	Pellissippi State Community College; P.O. Box 22990; Knoxville, TN 37933	