

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

**TITLE:** *Learning to Learn...Learning for Life* STAR Initiative—Planning for Academic Success through STAR Advisors and a Student Learning Checkpoint System

**INSTITUTION:** Pensacola Junior College, 1000 College Boulevard, Pensacola, FL 32504

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With FTE of approximately 8,400 in 2007-08, Pensacola Junior College (PJC), located in Northwest Florida, is a comprehensive two-year public institution governed by a local District Board of Trustees. Founded in 1947 as Florida's first public junior college PJC serves Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, with a combined population of 439,987 (2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census).

Pensacola Junior College (PJC) has designed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) entitled "Learning to Learn...Learning for Life." PJC intends to enhance and maintain a learning environment in which first-generation, first-time-in-college students who test into two or more pre-collegiate courses are exposed to one-on-one advising in conjunction with a 3-credit College Success course and a one-credit College Success computer lab. These advising, teaching, and intervention strategies are designed to nourish the first-generation, first-time-in-college students' capacity to learn, as well as their ability to take responsibility for their own learning. Strategies and activities utilized in the QEP that are determined to be clearly associated with student success will be institutionalized to ensure greater institutional effectiveness in increasing student retention.

Through this five year project, PJC will:

- 1) Recruit and enroll eligible first-generation, first-time-in-college students into STAR (Support for Transition to Academic Readiness) cohorts;
- 2) Utilize STAR Advisors to guide specific cohorts of first-generation students (STAR Students) through their first-year experience;
- 3) Utilize a Student Learning Checkpoint System, an online MIS system designed to allow STAR Advisors to track the academic progress of STAR Students; and

The academic success of STAR cohorts will be tracked across time to measure the QEP goal: *To increase the percentage of students in STAR cohorts achieving academic success during the five-year pilot project period, when compared to a general student population baseline cohort.*