

**REINHARDT UNIVERSITY**  
*Where in the World RU Going?*  
**Reflection on Professional and Global Pathways for Success**

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**QEP Executive Summary**

For its new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Reinhardt University is introducing *Where in the World RU Going?* This program will promote the use of High Impact Practices (HIPs) that will help students more actively engage in their learning processes. We seek to play a vital role in helping students develop independent thinking, creativity, and an appreciation for lifelong learning. The program will specifically focus on two areas of development: widening global perspectives and professional development. This program will encourage students both to document their experiences and to reflect on them. These reflections will help students explore, express, and grow in meaningful directions.

This QEP was developed by a committee representative of the breadth of our traditional academic programs and schools. The work of the committee was guided by institutional assessment reports and educational scholarship. The results of the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) showed that we might increase the opportunities for students to engage in HIPs: the proportion of students able to take part in at least one HIP was higher than the average participation statewide, but lower than the rates reported at peer colleges. The committee solicited ideas for direction and responses to those ideas from the faculty at large, the students, the university staff, alumni, and trustees. Two ideas emerged that fit the broad learning outcomes of the university and its strategic plan.

The resulting QEP will encourage each traditional undergraduate program identify at least two HIPs meeting the goals of broadening global perspectives and professional development. The HIP experience may be a unit in a course, a full course, or even a semester or year-long experience. The QEP specifically promotes four HIPs: global experiences (from a study abroad to short-term projects like interacting with a local immigrant group), research (both scholarly and creative), service learning, and internships. Faculty mentors will help students to document HIP experiences in ePortfolios and to reflect on those experiences through writing elicited with a series of prompt questions.

The QEP Learning Goals are based on University Learning Outcome 4 (“Independent thought and imagination; preparation for lifelong learning”) and further the interest of the Reinhardt University Strategic Plan in “deepen[ing] academic relevancy”:

**Goal 1:** Improve student participation in HIPS across all academic programs.

**Goal 2:** Strengthen students’ independent thought, imagination/creativity, and lifelong learning.

**Objective 1:** RU will provide students with opportunities to take part in a variety of high impact practices that support the growth of student’s understanding of global perspectives.

**Objective 2:** Students will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of high impact practices that support the growth of student’s professional development.

**Goal 3:** Improve student success outcomes by creating and promoting a culture of high-impact practices.

Reinhardt University will fund a director for the QEP, appropriate administrative support (including marketing), faculty training, and a website for collecting and storing student portfolios and reflections and faculty assessments of those portfolios and reflections.