



Executive Summary

Southeastern Technical College's (STC) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "MESH" *for Success*, (Mathematics Enhancing the Sciences and Health), is designed as a broad-based College initiative to improve student learning for Health Science students in understanding the application of mathematical concepts. The QEP supports the College's mission, vision, and goals by enhancing educational delivery and empowering students for success through customized training and services. The plan will be accomplished through the development and implementation of a curriculum-specific math course as well as a faculty development initiative.

In the early stages of the plan development, stakeholders representing the College community analyzed and evaluated key issues that surfaced through a review of annual institutional results. Specific key issues identified were deficiencies in the application of mathematical concepts and lack of quantitative reasoning skills of students. These issues were noted in the Health Science programs, which comprise 51% of the College's student population.

In order to provide a sufficient pool of skilled healthcare workers, student success in the Health Science programs is vitally important on both the state and local level. By identifying the key issues and determining that retention is traditionally low in the Health Science programs, College stakeholders agreed to focus the QEP on addressing Health Science students' deficient abilities in applying mathematical concepts to real-world situations.

Research in these areas validated the need to alter methods of delivering instruction as a strategy to develop students' real-world mathematical problem solving and quantitative reasoning skills. To address these areas, the College devised a plan that would include the development and implementation of a curriculum-specific math course and faculty education in contextual methods of teaching. Faculty training in the utilization of various instructional methodologies will be integral to the success of the QEP, especially for the Health Science faculty. Additionally, the College is incorporating reformative mathematical models into program-specific Health Science courses to improve student learning in understanding the application of these concepts.

The Implementation Plan for MESH exhibits broad-based College involvement which is strongly supported by the College's administration. A comprehensive assessment plan was developed for MESH and utilizes formative and summative assessments to evaluate student learning and the overall effectiveness of the QEP. Furthermore, STC provides evidence of its financial capabilities and commitment to sustain the implementation and completion of the QEP.

QEP contact: Tara Powell, QEP Director
(912)538-3152 or tpowell@southeasterntech.edu

