



# connect

start **smart.** finish **strong.**

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) of Texarkana College (TC), **Connect: Start Smart. Finish Strong.** is designed to enhance student success, retention, and completion rates through three principal strategies: 1. Faculty academic advisors, 2. Learning Frameworks course, and 3. Early Alert System (EAS).

TC utilized institutional, state, and national data to identify areas likely to yield the greatest impact to student success for its students. The process to identify and to develop the QEP began in fall 2013 with a data review by TC faculty and staff. Subsequent focus groups and surveys in fall 2013 and spring 2014 provided additional data to determine the focus of the QEP. After a careful consideration of all available data, including student input, the TC QEP Committee announced enhanced advising as the focus of the QEP.

Specific features of TC's plan to enhance advising were developed after a thorough review of current literature and best practices associated with advising. This research relied heavily on data associated with the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE). In particular, the high impact practices identified in the three report series produced in the CCCSE special initiative "Identifying and Promoting High-Impact Educational Practices in Community Colleges" were a primary consideration in the development of Texarkana College's QEP.

Outcomes identified in the QEP clearly reflect the mission of Texarkana College which is guided by core beliefs, including the belief that

"Our highest priority is increasing the number of people with higher education credentials in our region." Accordingly, TC's QEP will measure improvements in student success as measured by a GPA > 2.0, and improvements in retention, persistence and completion compared to benchmarks established prior to implementation of the plan. TC began piloting the plan in fall 2015.

The three primary strategies of **Connect: Start Smart. Finish Strong.** are designed to enhance the learning environment of Texarkana College by facilitating an institutional culture characterized by collaborative and proactive advising relationships to promote student learning and success. Throughout the development of the QEP, QEP Committee members consistently sought broad-based involvement from all sectors of the College to verify the institutional commitment and capacity in terms of personnel, financial, physical, and academic resources. The result is a dynamic plan that is poised to deliver measurable results both now and long into the future.

*Texarkana College SACSCOC*

*Liaison/QEP Director: Dr. Dixon Boyles,*

*Dean of Business & Social Sciences*

*john.dixon.boyles@texarkanacollege.edu*