

## **The First-Year Experience begins with Orientation to Academic Success using Innovative Strategies (OASIS)**

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In keeping with the vision to become a more intensely student-centered and effective university, Tuskegee University has focused its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) on the First-Year Experience with special emphasis on Orientation and Academic Advising. Our focus on the first year in undergraduate education is derived from institutional data evidencing that first-year students have the highest attrition rate. Through the development and implementation of an academically-structured orientation program that is intellectually rigorous and stimulating, we anticipate providing students with the foundational concepts and skills for the chosen major while enabling the student to become acclimated to the institutional environment.

The program to be implemented through the QEP, will have as its major elements, 1) an intensive Orientation (OASIS) week of academic and student services activities, 2) freshman academic advising, 3) a two-semester first-year seminar course with primacy assigned to the critical skills, knowledge and understandings that bear on two core curriculum competencies, namely, written and oral communication and quantitative/mathematical reasoning, 4) a summer reading/analysis program, 5) peer mentoring, and 6) faculty development. Central to the planning and implementation of the QEP as well as the overall goal of the plan is an ongoing program of assessment. Therefore, the overall efficacy of the **OASIS Program** will be regularly assessed to both document gains in student learning outcomes and to guide iterative program improvements.

It is anticipated that the QEP will provide students with the resources and support needed to successfully transition into college and sustain exemplary academic performance as well as overall human development. Thus, through the QEP, Tuskegee University will insure that students have a strong grasp of the core curriculum competencies of higher order skills of problem solving, critical thinking, analysis and synthesis, as well as of creative and expressive abilities, including mathematics and written and oral language usage.