

# **Tyler Junior College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)**

## **The *Quest* for Academic Success: Improving Reading Comprehension Skills**

**Executive Summary:** The *Quest* for Academic Success is designed to increase students' success by teaching them enhanced reading comprehension skills. These skills will be learned through:

- Faculty development
- Enhanced teaching strategies
- Academic support

TJC's process of identifying the QEP topic began in 2008; it involved representatives from all areas of the College community: faculty, students, staff, administrators, and board members. Using surveys, anecdotal information, data, literature searches, and assessment of reading skills, the College ultimately determined that reading comprehension was the focus that would have the greatest impact on student learning. This focus aligns with TJC's strategic plan goals of learning centered instruction and student success by providing faculty with additional teaching tools and students with additional skills needed to achieve personal goals.

In the spring of 2011 Tyler Junior College was invited to join the Achieving the Dream (ATD) initiative. Activities within this initiative will support QEP activities, and the QEP Director will serve on the Core Committee that institutionalizes the ATD principles and goals. Specifically, the College's ATD commitment to faculty professional development will engender student success and will augment efforts to improve reading comprehension as set out in this QEP.

Three actions will drive The *Quest* for Academic Success at Tyler Junior College.

- Faculty development will include learning-generic and content-specific skills for teaching students how to improve in reading comprehension.
- Gateway courses will be modified to include strategies that increase students' reading comprehension. These courses include introductory level English, math, history, biology, and sociology.
- The *Quest* Academic Success Center will provide academic support services including tutoring, student workshops, and supplemental instruction.

To assess its results, the QEP will adopt both quantitative and qualitative measures. Formative assessments will be made as the plan is implemented, and adjustments will be made as dictated by results. Results of assessments, analysis of those results, and plans for changes directed at improvement will be included in the QEP Annual Assessment Report. Assessment tools will include the Gates-MacGinitie Reading Test (GMRT), various rubrics, and surveys designed to assess initiatives. The QEP Impact Report, part of the Fifth-Year Interim Report, will synthesize and summarize the effectiveness of the initiative.

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**Quality Enhancement Plan**

