



Wingate University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary  
Spencer Delbridge, Director  
s.delbridge@wingate.edu

Wingate University has selected **community engagement** for its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Wingate's mission is to educate global citizens while cultivating knowledge, faith, and service in our students. The QEP builds on Wingate's mission through W'Engage, a service-learning program designed to enhance student and institutional community engagement.

Service and engagement are vital to educating citizens, retaining students, and positively impacting area community development. To improve student and university community engagement, the QEP committee developed the **W'Engage Program** and founded the **Center for Community Engagement**. W'Engage connects classroom and community through curriculum, and the Center joins university and community through strategic partnership development. Our program responds to civic engagement survey results, sophomore retention data, and community challenges by providing sophomores with the opportunity to work with faculty, local leaders, and national partners to help meet these challenges.

W'Engage is designed as a **sophomore-level program**. Wingate defines sophomore status as students having 24-56 credit hours. While Wingate has an advising program for first-year students, an international travel program for juniors, and an internship program for seniors, a sophomore program does not currently exist. The sophomore year is an opportune time for connecting developing academic interests with a hands-on engagement experience, helping students intellectually explore and work collaboratively to solve community challenges.

The QEP defines our **first learning outcome** as "learn" (communicate effectively about issues that impact the common good), which will be accomplished through the W'Engage community-focused curriculum design. Courses address topics like habitat conservation in the Charlotte region and on the North Carolina coast, improving community-police relations in Charlotte and Boston, and the role of rural media in North Carolina and Kentucky community development projects.

Our **second learning outcome** is identified as "reflect" (evaluate personal values, assumptions, and attitudes regarding a complex social question). Faculty have developed journal, essay, and digital portfolio-based assignments that are reflective in nature and interactive by online design.

The **third learning outcome** is "act" (engage in collaborative learning teams by working productively in diverse groups and contexts). Working with local and national partners and in student teams, classes will develop measurable projects like positively impacting habitat conservation, distributing food to needy families, fundraising for victims of violence, developing programming for homeless LGBTQ+ youth, and providing healthy food for area communities and schools.

Wingate University faculty, staff, and administration support the W'Engage QEP that builds on our mission to serve and will lead to improved student and institutional community engagement.