MCTC QEP: ***Let's Solve It: Problem-Solving Skills for Life***

I. Executive Summary

Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) has developed its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) *Let's Solve It: Problem-Solving Skills for Life* as part of its reaffirmation of accreditation process. Faculty, staff, students and board members provided input into the topic selection process. From the planning and evaluation process and much discussion, the QEP topic of problem solving was selected with the following goal:

> *MCTC will provide the instruction and resources to increase student capacity for work-place success by improving problem-solving and reasoned decision-making skills.*

The plan is designed to improve student learning and academic success with the following key points:

- Employability skills will be incorporated into the first-year experience course, *Achieving Academic Success*, FYE 105, and measured using soft-skills software *Am I Job Ready?* awarding digital badges upon successful completion.
- *Writing I*, ENG 101, is the course selected for the pretest using the Critical-thinking Assessment Test (CAT) administered online from Tennessee Technological University (TTU) to measure entry level problem-solving skills. The test uses short-answer questions to measure problem-solving skills based on the expanded contemporary definition of critical thinking that emphasizes problem-solving skills.
- Faculty will incorporate problem-solving activities in classes to provide formative assessment measures. Two tools have been developed to assist faculty: a modified Association of American Colleges and Universities VALUE rubric and a Problem-Solving Student Report form. Summaries of strengths and weaknesses will be reported in annual unit plans. Student gains in problem-solving skills will be measured by the CAT instrument and indirectly by the MCTC exit survey data and results from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).
- *Writing II* (ENG 102), *Introduction to Statistics* (STA 220) and technical program capstone courses are identified for posttest CAT administration.

Professional development will be provided in two ways: workshops conducted by the Center for Assessment and Improvement of Learning staff from TTU and through review of CAT results with key faculty to provide evidence of problem solving strengths and weaknesses. This knowledge will then assist the instructor to make any needed classroom changes that should ultimately improve student problem-solving skills that in the future will lead to more successful workplace employment. The QEP director and the QEP Implementation Committee will be responsible to: monitor QEP activities and the effectiveness of the assessment process, implement recommendations of needed action for improvement, communicate results and provide support for QEP efforts.

MCTC has the human, fiscal and physical resources for the QEP *Let's Solve It: Problem-Solving Skills for Life* to be a success and more importantly, help our students succeed.

For Additional Information, please contact:

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