



Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

QEP Director: Dr. Jordan Sanderson (jordan.sanderson@mgccc.edu)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Brad Bailey (brad.bailey@mgccc.edu), Dr. Suzana Brown (suzana.brown@mgccc.edu),
Dr. Jonathan Woodward (jonathan.woodward@mgccc.edu)

Executive Summary

Embracing Essential Skills aims to propagate a culture of essential skills improvement among Career students by aligning academic and support services with best practices and resources that empower students to take ownership of their essential skills needs related to attendance and punctuality, listening, and speaking.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's mission is to provide superior instruction through traditional and technological formats to offer workforce pathways, certificates, diplomas, and associate transfer and applied degrees. In *Strategic Plan 2020*, the College established four commitments that guide all decisions at the institution—Teaching and Learning, Student Success, Community Engagement and Partnerships, and Culture of Innovation—and these commitments shaped the QEP topic selection process. In surveys, listening sessions, and proposals, stakeholders (students, partners in business and industry, and employees) identified essential skills as an area of need. Ultimately, “Soft Skills for Hard Work,” a proposal from a student group, emerged as the selected topic and was developed into *Embracing Essential Skills*.

Public speaking instructors collaborate with instructors in MGCCC Career programs to create lessons and activities that result in the following outcomes:

SLO # 1 – Attendance and Punctuality: Students will be present and punctual.

SLO #2 – Listening: Students will demonstrate proficiency in listening in the following areas: A. Nonverbal, B. Active Listening in the Workplace (Summarization), C. Situational Listening in the Workplace (Identifying Follow-up Questions), and D. Presentation Listening.

SLO #3 – Speaking: Students will demonstrate proficiency in speaking in the following areas: A. Nonverbal, B. Workplace Speaking (Use of Language), C. Situational Workplace Speaking (Content), and D. Public Speaking.

Lessons and activities are embedded in Career classes, and with the exception of attendance and punctuality, which are taught and reinforced every semester, students learn and practice a new essential skill during each semester of their programs. This scaffolded approach facilitates the acquisition and retention of essential skills, resulting in behavioral change. Public speaking instructors evaluate students' application of essential skills with a rubric, and both public speaking instructors and career instructors provide career-specific constructive feedback to students throughout each semester. Partnering with the College's Institutional Research and Effectiveness department, the QEP Implementation and Steering Committees evaluate the QEP each year using feedback from students, partners in business and industry, employees, and graduates to ensure that the initiative is effective in equipping Career students with the skills that they need to succeed.