

## **SOWELA TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Quality Enhancement Plan

*Flight Plan: Advising to Arrive at Your Destination*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Throughout SOWELA's history, advising has been primarily focused on getting students registered for the courses they need each semester. Modifications to advising practices have often been one quick-fix after another in order to resolve whatever pressing need existed at that particular time. This reactionary approach to advising has lacked a foundation of solid planning and has not addressed underlying issues.

Analysis of recent assessment data from the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) as well as internal assessments have indicated a decline in the student use of and satisfaction with advising services at SOWELA. A review of literature illustrates that over the past few decades academic advising has evolved from a tightly prescriptive event to a holistic experience promoting an academic advisor-student relationship designed to address the needs of the whole student and encouraging the student to participate in the advising process.

The goal of SOWELA's QEP *Flight Plan: Advising to Arrive at Your Destination* is to provide students with an ongoing advising experience that is holistic instead of prescriptive so that students are more involved in their college experience and empowered to take charge of formulating and achieving their academic and career goals.

SOWELA's *Flight Plan* identifies three student learning outcomes.

- Students will actively participate in the academic advising process.
- Students will establish a plan to achieve their academic goals.
- Students will persist toward their academic goals.

SOWELA has developed a blended model with an emphasis on centralized advising by using academic advisors trained in the concepts of appreciative advising. This focus will bring the consistency and structure that have been absent in SOWELA's practices. It will also encourage a strong, ongoing academic advisor-student relationship. The blended advising model will also incorporate periodic checkpoints with faculty advisors in the student's respective instructional program.

SOWELA's *Flight Plan* relies heavily upon a centralized advising unit that did not exist previously. The target population for QEP cohorts will be first-time at SOWELA, degree-seeking students. By working with new students, the QEP will scale gradually over a period of several years.

The QEP, *Flight Plan: Advising to Arrive at Your Destination*, reinforces SOWELA's commitment to providing quality educational experiences and support services for all students.

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