

Albany Technical College Albany, Georgia

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QEP Title: “YO! Year One! Ready. Set. Succeed. First Year Experience: Enhancing Student Success”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Institutional Process and Broad-based Involvement

Albany Technical College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), “YO! Year One! Ready. Set. Succeed. First Year Experience: Enhancing Student Success” (“YO”) is a direct outcome of the college’s comprehensive planning and evaluation process. It addresses student success and is aligned with the mission of the college. YO emerged from an institutional process that used assessment data and surveys to identify key issues at Albany Technical College (ATC). In 2018, the process began with the formation of a QEP topic selection committee comprised of faculty, staff, students, ATC board members, ATC Foundation members, and community. The group analyzed three years of college data, including gateway pass-fail statistics, student retention, and program completion. Along with this data, additional research, a literature review of best practices, brainstorming sessions, and college-wide surveys informed the topic selection. The QEP topic selection, leadership committee and sub-committees involved constituents from all areas of the college and community. The QEP sub-committees have representation of multiple academic departments, ATC board members, academic advisers, and several other key functional areas. Over five years, based on the average number of beginning students (508), 2540 students will be impacted by “YO.” ATC’s full-time faculty and staff will contribute to the success of the QEP.

Focus of the Plan.

Research revealed that the college loses about 25% or more of the beginning student’s population each year. Beginning students had a 64% pass rate and an overall GPA of 2.18, below that of returning students, 73.7% pass rate and GPA of 2.89. Based on the data, new students are a vulnerable population at the college and a possible focus for improving student success and retention. To address this for beginning students, the college will redesign its COLL 1020: College Success course. Data also revealed that beginning students had an average retention rate of 67% between the semesters of Fall 2017 through Fall 2019. The goal of “YO!” is to improve the student’s success rate and beginning student retention rate by 7% by year five of the QEP.

Institutional Capability.

Implementation of “YO” will be coordinated by the QEP director, QEP Leadership Committee, Research analyst, and the QEP sub-committees. All components of the program support the college’s mission by aligning with the strategic plan. The budget allocation of \$528,884 over five years provides funds for marketing, professional development training, travel and instructional supplies.

Assessment of the Plan.

Student learning outcomes have been identified to provide direct measures of student success by focusing on student performance, assessment outcomes and frequency use of academic resources. Program outcomes will focus on retention of beginning students from one semester to the next. “YO” will be integrated into the college’s ongoing planning and evaluation process.