



## **Engage NWFSC: Enhanced Learning through Innovative Instructional Strategies**

### **Executive Summary**

The Northwest Florida State College Quality Enhancement Plan is designed to increase success among A.A. students by increasing active and engaged learning in core courses. **Engage NWFSC** is a campus-wide endeavor and reimagines how the College can best serve today's NWFSC student by focusing on faculty development and promoting active and engaged learning opportunities across all instructional methods.

NWFSC stakeholders value active and engaged learning and provided input during the early stages of the QEP's development. The project is rooted in research on active and engaged learning by key scholars in the field, including Piaget, Dewey, Vygotsky, Kolb, and Garrison. **Engage NWFSC** endorses the tenet that learners actively engage with their environments to acquire knowledge and that faculty serve to facilitate this endeavor. *Active and engaged learning* occurs when a student acquires new skills or knowledge through a faculty-cultivated educational experience, inviting collaboration, communication, reflection, translation, or exploration. For **Engage NWFSC**, students' active and engaged learning experiences represent faculty use of fifteen specific strategies within these five categories. The QEP Director and Faculty Development Coordinator champion active and engaged learning and coordinate faculty development. A program based on level of engagement in the QEP rewards faculty members by recognizing them as an Active and Engaged Learning Novice, Supporter, Practitioner, or Scholar.

The following **Engage NWFSC** objectives align with the project's goal of increasing success among A.A. students: (1) an increase in the use of active learning strategies in Gen Ed core courses, (2) a decrease in the repeat rate in Gen Ed core courses by an increase in student performance, and (3) an increase in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding Gen Ed Student Learning Outcomes targets. These objectives allow for quantitative and qualitative assessment, using both formative and summative measures.

**Engage NWFSC** aims to positively influence student success and improve the student experience as the College becomes a more present, visible, and active partner in students' paths toward academic success.

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