

Alcorn State University,

Ontario Wooden, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, owooden@alcorn.edu

Alcorn State University is adopting as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): *The Alcorn Success Network: A Strategic Approach to Improve Students' Academic and Career Planning* (ASN). This initiative is consistent with the University's mission to prepare graduates to be well-rounded leaders in this highly technical and global 21st century. With the active participation of all its relevant stakeholders, the University is embarking on this data-driven initiative to boost student persistence by strengthening and enhancing the University's academic and career planning infrastructure. Alcorn's QEP is guided by two overarching goals: (1) empowering students to identify, align and pursue their educational and professional goals, and (2) providing students with robust, coordinated, and assessable academic and career advising that include both curricular and co-curricular support structures that are tailored to their specific needs to achieve graduation completion and career placement. In the enactment of the QEP, the combined, collaborative efforts of University College, Residential Life, Student Engagement and Career Services will yield the following student learning outcomes (SLO):

1. Students will be able to create an educational plan by skillfully utilizing newly adopted innovative academic progression tools and resources.
2. Students will be able to create and execute a career plan by skillfully completing newly designed modules that assist with the alignment of educational and proposed career goals.
3. Students will be able to "present" themselves effectively, orally and in writing, in their pursuit of career opportunities.

The QEP reflects a design that is aligned with the University's vision to create a premier land grant University that graduates globally competitive students. The QEP includes the revision and adoption of both curricula, co-curricular advising models, faculty development and course redesign to support the development of a holistic, student-centered environment that will improve student persistence and overall graduation rates at the University.

Integrating advising and career development from the onset is aimed at ensuring that students are cognizant of the relationship between academic and career goals before they embark upon their intended course of study. This awareness will enable students to make use of the knowledge, skills and resources that foster success and assist them in making smart decisions that impact career outcomes. With the introduction of the concept of a "success network" from the start, the students will be more likely to rely on the multiple and varied support mechanisms that are available to them to promote timely degree completion and career placement.

Signature activities of Alcorn's QEP include: (1) The University Life course (UL), a requirement for all first-time, first year students, will be redesigned to include modernized and relevant content. Additionally, the course will use a team-taught model that includes University College advisors, faculty, and career service specialists, each bringing a particular expertise and perspective relevant to student success. (2) The University will adopt and implement the use of a high-touch, University-wide advising model, the Sustained, Strategic, Integrated, Proactive, and Personalize (SSIPP) approach. The approach entails the use of a network of long-term advising tools and resources by student, advisors and faculty. (3) Professional and faculty advisors and relevant staff will be cross-trained in career development to ensure the implementation of a student-centered technology-mediated advising strategy.