

Christian Brothers University's QEP topic for 2020-2025 is **Community Engagement**. Building on a strong tradition and existing culture of community engagement, we will enhance opportunities for student community engagement by (1) increasing both the quality and quantity of student community-engagement experiences and (2) creating more tangible outputs of this engagement. In particular, our QEP will increase (1) high-impact, transformational learning experiences and (2) persistence in academic programs. The evidence reviewed in the literature shows that community engagement has positive effects on retention rates, personal growth, and student success after graduation. These are the key student outcomes and key student successes we are targeting with this QEP.

Three themes that are relevant to the QEP are:

Transformational Learning: All CBU students will have more high-impact, transformational learning experiences that foster personal growth and set them apart in graduate school and the job market. To achieve this, CBU will optimize our current learning spaces, and we will develop and expand our programs to meet student needs. The value and impact of all learning experiences, both in and out of the classroom, will be continuously assessed and improved.

Strategic Growth and Vitality: CBU will grow its number of students and significantly improve retention rates. CBU will optimize facilities and other support services necessary for success.

Institutional Story: CBU will articulate and cultivate a distinctive narrative of our Catholic and Lasallian institutional identity. This narrative will permeate the academic, social, and spiritual experiences of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and will constitute the foundation of the image of the University to our surrounding communities. Members of the CBU community will embody the Lasallian charism through engaged learning, personal and spiritual growth, and through investments of their time, talent, and treasure in the future of the institution. All members of the CBU community will be able to tell a clear, consistent, and comprehensive story of our University.

The implementation of the QEP will consist of three phases: (1) Collection of formative data, (2) enhancement of quality and quantity of existing programs, and (3) enhancements to infrastructure, curriculum, and policies. The phases are symbiotic with one another and each will inform and support the others. The Memphis community and the CBU community within it create unique opportunities for optimizing student learning and student success. Therefore, we believe that formative guidance from CBU and the surrounding community is essential to the success of the QEP. We will assess the QEP by tracking both changes in campus programs themselves and the impact these changes have on retention and on student satisfaction and marketability after graduation. Our QEP implementation and assessment will depend on broad involvement of those on the CBU campus, as well as the surrounding community with which we are engaged.

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