

# MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

## *LevelUP!* Experience Your Future

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a regional university located in Eastern Kentucky, Morehead State University (MSU) serves as a catalyst for greater opportunity for the people of our service region. The University is committed to fostering a community of students who are prepared for success in a global environment, and our next Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *Level UP!* Experience Your Future, will serve as a critical tool in our mission to do so.

Guided by the University's strategic plan, *Come SOAR with Us*, and relying on feedback from a wide range of University stakeholders, MSU embarked upon a two-year process to choose and develop a QEP. A Selection Team, which gathered ideas and solicited proposals from students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members, held informational forums and surveyed members of all constituency groups about the fit of each proposal with our strategic plan before making a concept proposal recommendation to the President and Board of Regents. Once a topic had been selected, an Implementation Team then refined the proposed plan to foster a strong culture of participation among the students and faculty.

MSU's QEP seeks to improve the employability of our undergraduate students by using high impact experiences (e.g., undergraduate research, education abroad, service learning, and internships) as a mechanism to foster essential career skills. Specifically, our plan will work to achieve two student learning outcomes: 1) students in high impact experiences will demonstrate a career competency (i.e., oral or written communication skills, critical thinking, teamwork, or professionalism), and 2) students will articulate specific examples of how they used their skills in a high impact experience. Students who attain these outcomes will level up in their career readiness and develop a competitive edge in the job market.

To achieve the QEP's student learning outcomes, the plan requires the creation of *Level UP!* experiences within academic degree programs – existing courses in the curriculum retrofitted to include high impact experiences and employ critical pedagogical approaches specifically selected to nurture our desired career skills. Students who successfully complete *Level UP!* courses will receive a special denotation on the transcript, and those who demonstrate proficiency across both student learning outcomes for any career competency will be recognized with a Distinction from the institution. Students may utilize such recognitions when seeking employment as evidence of skill development.

The student learning outcomes of our *Level UP!* program will be assessed through direct and indirect measures and widely used rubrics. Each student artifact will be assessed on multiple dimensions to determine the extent to which the student attained the desired outcome in their focus career competency area. Our program seeks to foster mastery of the focus career skills because mastery-level attainment will add greater value to the students' employability, thus attainment of our first student learning outcome is assumed only when students achieve proficiency in communication skills, critical thinking, teamwork, or professionalism. Students also must be proficient in articulating examples of their career skills at work in a high impact experience in order to attain our second learning outcome.

The QEP will be supported by our campus community and through appropriate resource allocations. A new Center for Experiential Education will be created to support the initiative with faculty and student services, and numerous campus units will work to promote awareness of *Level UP!* program and/or provide wrap-around student coaching to help them leverage its outcomes. In addition, a robust program of faculty development, as well as faculty grants to support the transformation of existing courses into *Level UP!* sections, will be implemented in support of the program.

Throughout its history, Morehead State University has adapted to the needs of the people in its service region. *Level UP!* Experience Your Future will allow us to continue our tradition of increasing opportunity by addressing our students' need to integrate their educational experience with their career goals.

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