

**Institution:** Voorhees University

**QEP Title:** Strengthening Guided Career Pathways: The Next Level of Excellence

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## **Executive Summary**

Voorhees University (VU), founded in 1897, is a private, historically black, 4-year career-oriented, co-educational, liberal arts institution offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs located in Denmark, SC. The Institution's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) entitled "*Strengthening Guided Career Pathways: The Next Level of Excellence*" aligns with the University's Mission in "providing highly qualified graduates." The plan aims to strengthen our efforts in developing and implementing guided career pathways with the ultimate goal of preparing all students for competitive and high-demand careers by equipping them with the information and skills they need to be successful during college and beyond. Our efforts include increasing the number and types of experiential learning opportunities available to students; developing experiential learning outcomes based directly related to students' programs of study; providing culturally and globally relevant learning opportunities through study abroad and study away initiatives; and evaluating the acquisition and transfer of knowledge, skills, and abilities in relation to a student's chosen career path.

The proposed "Strengthening Guided Career Pathways" QEP is guided by three overarching goals:

Goal 1: Experiential Learning - Develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities of students by requiring each undergraduate student to engage in at least one area of experiential learning as a degree completion requirement.

Goal 2: Co-curricular Engagement - Enhance the quality of academic programs through curricula innovation by realigning academic offerings to parallel the market through expanded collaborative partnerships with the private and public sectors and graduate programs.

Goal 3: Guided Career Pathways - Utilize the National Career Cluster® Framework to provide a structured, comprehensive career pathway program for all incoming freshmen.

In an effort to achieve these goals, the College has employed the P.A.T.H.S. approach to fostering student success and a methodology which should also impact and enhance student learning.

**Programmatic & Professional Preparation**

**Active & Intrusive Advising**

**Tracking Degree & Post-Graduation Plans**

**Holistic Student Engagement Opportunities**

**Student Support Services**

VU has developed a comprehensive assessment plan to evaluate the model and track student progress from entry to career placement. Our plan consists of 36 outcomes and objectives with appropriate benchmarks and timelines. This aggressive plan ensures the University is poised to prepare students to meet the challenges of a global, diverse, and dynamic workforce environment as well as being aptly prepared for educational opportunities beyond the undergraduate level.