EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Florida National University (FNU) has identified the need for a strategy to address student academic readiness and career preparedness. The FNU Center for Academic Resources and Educational Support (FNU CARES) was created to meet the needs of both the students and the faculty with the aim of improving student success both in academics and in the workforce. The QEP development included a broad array of stakeholders providing input and support to the initiative.

The QEP mission aligns with the institution’s goal to provide well-rounded student success structures to support educational programs and encourage a holistic approach to the growth and development of the students. In achieving this mission, the QEP was designed to focus on Academic Readiness and Career Preparedness, and this is approached from both a student and a faculty perspective. The primary goals of the QEP focus on student success structures along with faculty development structures.

**Goal 1.** To contribute to a student’s life-long success by providing services to advance student academic readiness and career preparedness. (Aligned with Institutional Goal I)

**Goal 2.** To provide quality education by advancing the faculty’s proficiency in the art of teaching through targeted professional development activities addressing best practices, cutting-edge pedagogy, and faculty-student interactions. (Aligned with Institutional Goals I and II)

FNU CARES will provide student services both in-person and virtually. The QEP is able to tap into several institutional resources without additional cost including tutor.com, the federal work-study program at the institution to help staff the help desk, a peer-tutoring program, and aspects of the Writing Studio. Using programs already existing within the institution to complement the efforts of FNU CARES requires less up-front resources.

Supporting the QEP are six first-year courses that incorporated the QEP concepts in to the course curriculum. Faculty teaching these courses will receive training from SMEs on the QEP committee. Additional professional development activities are built into a Faculty Professional Development pod within the Blackboard LMS system. This pod will be populated with QEP-related training by committee members as well as with discipline-specific training chosen by the Division and Department Heads.

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