



Empowering Faculty to Empower Students: A Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA)

QEP Information Contact: Dr. Pam Millsap, Vice President for Academic Affairs

millsappa@lamarpa.edu

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

All institutions of higher education are concerned with issues of student retention and completion. Most student success initiatives focus on improving the institution's performance on these metrics. However, what is not common to all institutions are the factors that place Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) students at a particular disadvantage with regard to the completion of their education. LSCPA, unfortunately, faces more than the average number of disruptions in instructional continuity, including not only the nationwide COVID19 pandemic, but also regular, but unpredictable, weather events and the impact of industrial accidents.

Representatives from all campus constituencies and representatives from several independent school district partners served on LSCPA's QEP Topic Selection Committee. After reviewing multiple data sets as well as the major obstacles that interfere with student retention and completions, the Topic Selection Committee selected student retention as the major focus of the QEP. And because faculty have the most contact with students and therefore have the greatest opportunity to impact student retention, faculty development will be central to this QEP.

Strategies identified to achieve the goals of the QEP included:

- Comprehensive faculty development, focused on increasing student engagement.
- Development of a teaching repository to support the exchange of teaching ideas.
- Enhancement of academic resilience among students via increased student supports, to include early, low-stakes assignments, storytelling as a classroom teaching method, an improved method of making students aware of campus resources, mid-semester conferences with students to review their progress, and involvement of families, when appropriate, to equip them to support their student.

Expected Short-term Outcomes:

- Improved course retention rates.
- Improved rates of successful course completions, defined as a final grade of A, B, or C.
- Improved scores for faculty on end-of-course evaluations, specifically on questions pertaining to student engagement.

Expected Medium-term Outcomes:

- Improved Fall-to-Spring persistence rates.
- Improved Fall-to-Fall persistence rates.

Expected Long-term Outcome:

- Improved graduation rates.

LSCPA will launch its QEP in Fall 2023, and progress toward the identified outcomes will be assessed on a regular basis. By connecting students with faculty and with student supports, it is expected that retention and completions will increase.