Executive Summary for the East Tennessee State University Quality Enhancement Plan

East Tennessee State University (ETSU) was founded in 1911 with a singular purpose: to improve the quality of life for the people of our region and beyond. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) "*Go Beyond the Classroom*" (*Go Beyond*) builds upon that mission by expanding, enhancing, and elevating community-engaged learning opportunities across the institution. *Go Beyond* will further establish ETSU's reputation as an academic destination university committed to student success and regional stewardship. *Go Beyond* creates momentum to realize the goals of ETSU's strategic plan: maximize the student experience inside and outside the classroom and lead the region forward through community engagement and service.

Community-engaged learning as the QEP topic developed organically from a variety of university constituents and community partners invested in ETSU's planning and visioning processes. Stakeholders identified a need to better connect classroom experiences with engaged learning in order to equip students with the skills necessary for career success and responsible citizenship. The QEP Leadership Team developed these goals to guide the five-year plan:

Goal 1: Provide infrastructure and resources for student leaders, faculty and staff, and community partners to support long-term success for community-engaged learning.
Goal 2: Expand student involvement in community-engaged learning opportunities across the undergraduate curricular and co-curricular experiences.
Goal 3: Describe the impact of student involvement in community-engaged learning on student outcomes for various student populations.

Together, the QEP Leadership Team and the campus-wide QEP Implementation Team crafted Student Success and Student Learning Outcomes to bring the *Go Beyond* vision to reality. Student success outcomes will reinforce ETSU's goals for student achievement: 1) retain 85 percent of first-time, full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students, and 2) graduate 60 percent of all incoming degree-seeking undergraduate students.

Within five years, the majority of ETSU graduates will participate in community-engaged learning experiences that promote the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

SLO1: Students will make meaningful connections between their community-engaged learning experiences and academic course content.
SLO2: Students will critically reflect on how community-engaged learning influences their future aspirations.
SLO3: Students will articulate how community-engaged learning prepares them to make productive contributions in a diverse society.

The *Go Beyond* Implementation Team developed an implementation plan that scaffolds community-engaged learning experiences to span the undergraduate career across the curricular and co-curricular landscape. Activities will be inclusive and intentional, providing multiple touchpoints for student participation. The significant financial investment in *Go Beyond* will foster increased student engagement especially from students with retention and time to degree rates lower than the overall student body: Pell recipients, underserved, and male students. Outcomes for student learning and success will be assessed through a variety of direct and indirect tools including a locally developed *Go Beyond* assessment rubric. The assessment plan includes a timeline to examine outcomes at regular intervals, evaluate and analyze data, make programmatic modifications, and report on progress toward achieving the QEP goals.

Go Beyond creates an intentional learning environment where every student can connect with the community in a tangible, meaningful way, reflect on how that experience informs their future aspirations, and commit to making productive contributions in a diverse world. The legacy of *Go Beyond* is that community-engaged learning becomes the hallmark of the ETSU undergraduate experience.

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