Executive Summary  
Belmont University Quality Enhancement Plan  
Title: The Sophomore Year Experience  
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a. Purpose of the Sophomore Year Experience: Sophomores will engage in focused exploration of themselves and their places in the world

b. Key Elements of the Sophomore Year Experience

- The Sophomore Transitions Center will facilitate the Sophomore Year Experience
  - Student Service Tasks
    - Guide and hold accountable individual students as they develop and carry out their focused exploration plans
    - Plan, execute, and assess a convocation series for Sophomores
  - Administrative Tasks
    - Manage Sophomore Year Experience Steering Team as that group plans and executes all aspects of the Sophomore Year Experience
    - Lead the development and execution of the “Sophomore Summit” each Fall
    - Track all aspects of student involvement with the SYE
  - Staff: One full-time Director and two part-time professional “coaches”

- Academic Components
  - COM 1100, Fundamentals of Speech Communication (required of all undergraduates prior to completion of 60 credits). Course revised to address needs of Sophomores
  - Learning Community Courses (required of all undergraduates prior to completion of 60 credits) revised such that each pair of linked courses includes significant engaged learning experiences.

- Social and Community Components
  - Sophomore Living Experiences with enhanced residential experiences such as increased self-governance, Grab-n-Go food options, and residence hall programming specific to Sophomores
  - Sophomore Summit; held in Fall focusing on issues of concern to Sophomores
  - Sophomore Service Projects carried out primarily through residence halls (e.g. Habitat Build for a dorm or a floor in a dorm)

- Spiritual and Character Components
  - Belmont’s “Living a Better Story” initiative
  - Spiritual discernment convocation series
  - Spring Break Immersion Trip

- Assessment: In addition to analysis of individual components of the above key elements (employing survey tools, rubric analysis of coursework, etc.), a regression analysis will be applied to dependent variables of self-efficacy test score, meaning of life test score, retention rates, and graduation rates with a variety of features of the SYE program serving as independent variables