Tyrannosaur Valley Technical Institute

- Multi-campus technical college with locations in downtown Memphville, suburban Memphville, and Arberton, a rural county seat with 9,000 people

- Enrollment of 6,000 students, 53% full-time and 47% part-time

- Racially diverse; average age of students is 26; 39% male, 61% female

- Offers certificate, diploma, and associate in applied science degrees in 40 technical fields as well as the associate in arts and the associate in science.
QEP Title: Tech Talk

QEP Goal: To enhance student engagement by promoting the use of social networking venues (such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Linked-In, Tumblr, Pinterest, Google+, and others) to increase student/faculty and student/student interaction

Background: As a commuter institution with diverse locations (urban, suburban, and rural), many part-time students, and a large array of program areas and credentials, TVTI has determined that a lack of student-with-student and student-with-faculty interaction contributes to its high degree of student attrition. The writers of its QEP quote the large body of research that cites the importance of student engagement to student success and persistence as evidence.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of the QEP,

- 80% of the faculty (over a five year period) will have been trained in and demonstrate best practices in the use of popular social networking venues for educational purposes
- 60% of classes (over a five year period) will incorporate the use of social networking into their pedagogy
- 95% of respondents will answer “yes” to a graduate survey question that asks whether the use of social networking strategies increased their feeling of connection to TVTI and contributed to their success and persistence
- 10% of classes will include activities that will connect students across campuses and disciplines in joint projects achievable through the use of social networking vehicles; 90 of the students will be able to complete these projects at a level of proficient on a rubric developed by the faculty members involved
- student retention will increase by 2%
- the overall GPA of graduating students will increase by .15 quality points.

Questions about the Learning Outcomes of the QEP

1. Does the QEP contain specific measurable learning outcomes?
2. Has the institution identified a valid, reliable, appropriate assessment instrument to determine if students have achieved the learning outcomes identified?
3. Is it important that students achieve the learning outcomes identified?
4. Will it be possible to determine whether gains in student learning are attributable to the actions undertaken as a part of the QEP?