

What is a QEP?

A QEP is a Quality Enhancement Plan. As defined by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), "...the QEP describes a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. The QEP should be embedded within the institution's ongoing integrated institution-wide planning and evaluation process..."

Why should I care?

As part of the reaccreditation process required by SACS, Tarleton must show evidence of broad-based participation in identifying areas of student learning that warrant the development of a QEP. Your involvement in the exploration process is important to the future of Tarleton and its vision. The QEP is an opportunity to acquire resources to address an issue related to student learning, and allows Tarleton to better meet the needs of its students. Budget resources will be allocated to towards the fulfillment of the QEP. Furthermore, even if an area is not selected as the QEP, it remains flagged as an area of need and initiatives and resources may also be implemented to address those. It's key to our success as an institution to continually improve.

Give me some examples...

(See each university's website for a complete description)

- *Engaging Undergraduate Learners*, Baylor University
- *Communication Fluency*, Converse College
- *SALT: Serving and Learning Together*, Lipscomb University
- *Enhancing Student-Faculty Engagement*, University of Virginia
- *Improving Research Skills and Writing through Information Literacy*, Southwestern Adventist Univ.

Who do I talk to if I want to learn more about the QEP?

Barrett, Dr. Jeanelle
Bellah, Dr. Kimberly
Boykin, Dr. Nancy
Carter, Ms. Cynthia
Freeman, Ms. Abigail
Gillespie, Dr. Joe
Hinga, Dr. Gilbert
Lapierre, Dr. Coady

Lyon, Dr. Barbara
Martinez, Dr. Denise, Chairman
Monk, Dr. Betty Jo
Murray, Dr. Karen
Orr Andrew, Ms. Chandra
Pfau, Dr. Russell
Rynearson, Dr. Kim
Shipman, Dr. Mark
Chilton, Dr. Bradley, Provost, ex-officio

The QEP Team has been working for over a year gathering data and opinions from faculty, staff, and students, as well as reviewing NSSE, FSSE, and other student learning related assessment data. We are at our final cut in selecting the QEP topic. The team will incorporate data from this round of discussions, develop proposals of topics, refine, edit, and/or combine proposed topics, then select the QEP topic to be implemented. **We will launch the spring semester by announcing the QEP topic area.** Most of 2009 will be spent integrating the QEP implementation into the university processes and budget as well as marketing it to the campus.

Based on previous input from faculty, staff, and students, the committee has narrowed the potential QEP topic areas to the following:

1. Demonstrate Leadership Qualities
2. Ethical Decision Making
3. Service Learning
4. Student Engagement
5. Spoken Communication
6. Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities
7. Written Communication

Please note the following:

- This does **not** mean the QEP will be one of these areas; but the QEP will be a topic that falls under one (or more) of these areas.
 - Almost any area that you are passionate about can be molded to fit into one or more of these areas
- These are not necessarily mutually exclusive. Example accepted QEPs from other universities demonstrate the integration of some of these areas (see that university's website for details):
 - <insert sample QEPs from universities>

At this forum and via the SharePoint online forum, you have the opportunity to provide comments on any or all of these areas. You may provide or post comments as much as you'd like until the end of October.

- To access the online forum, go to <http://sharepoint01.tarleton.edu>
- Using your NTNET credentials (the same username and password you use for email) login, BUT **you must precede your username with NTNET**
 - **for example NTNET\smith**

When participating in the discussions think critically about the given area and provide input on any or all of the following questions:

1. General comments
2. What does the phrase <insert topic area> mean to you?
3. How would students be different if the QEP relates to this topic area?
4. How would your majors be different if the QEP relates to this topic area?
5. What initiatives could address this topic area?
6. How would we recognize success in this topic area?