Lone Star College’s QEP....

.....OUR Quality Enhancement Planning Project
According to the 2010 SACS reaffirmation handbook, an institution’s QEP should be, “a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic related to enhancing student learning and is designed to positively affect overall institutional quality and effectiveness of educational programs.”
*Revised Core Requirement 2.12

An “acceptable” QEP must:

1. Include a process to ID key issues emerging from institutional assessment
2. Focus on student learning outcomes (and/or environment supporting student learning)
3. Accomplish the mission of the institution
4. Be part of an ongoing planning and evaluation process; emerges from institutional effectiveness system (relates to 2.5)
The institution has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that:

1. Demonstrates that we can initiate, implement and complete the QEP
2. Includes broad-based involvement in the development and implementation
3. Identifies goals and a plan to assess achievement
4. Has strong faculty involvement
• QEP committee members appointed (cross-campus and cross functional areas)

• Preliminary research conducted to gather input from stakeholders: (what we do well and where are the gaps)
  • on campus meetings
  • student input solicited
  • employees gave feedback
  • external stakeholders responded
To Collect Information from Constituencies

Used technology where possible
• Sent out a series of surveys-500 responses
• Conducted focus groups
• Mini-presentations at meetings
• Facebook accounts used
Computer kiosks in high traffic areas
• Strategic planning documents

• Existing Reports
  • Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE)
  • Achieving the Dream (AtD)
  • Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness (ORIE)

• Researched other colleges’ QEPs

• Attended SACS conferences and meetings

• The QEP team reviewed hundreds of data points, merging them into general themes
Top Ten QEP Themes

- Academic Support
- Project Graduation
- Creating the “right place” for students
- First year experience
- Innovation in communication
- Preparing students for the “real world”
- Student engagement
- Student Resources
- Student Writing Skills
- Working in higher education in the 21st century
Three Topics Emerge

• Employees rank ordered the “top ten”
• Results were
  – services for student success
  – first year experience
  – student engagement
QEP Committee drafted a paper submitted to Executive Council

- Brief literature reviews on all three topics
- Outlined possible QEP outcomes around each topic
- Identified other colleges’ QEPS on similar topics
  - Provided costs and outcomes (based on other colleges’ work) when available
During its July meetings, EC discussed the possible QEP topics.

The topic selected for Lone Star College’s QEP is……….
FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE!!!
Next Steps

- Identify new committee chair to facilitate QEP development

- Gather more ideas – starting with yours today!!
QEP Ideas Sheets – In Your Folders

• First, write down your own thoughts/ideas
• Second, share with your neighbor
• Third, discuss with entire table
  – Someone at each table take notes (these will be collected)
QEP Ideas Sheets

• What do you think of when you hear “First Year Experience”?  
• Who could benefit from a first year experience project?  
• Who should be involved in developing and delivering first year experiences?
QEP Ideas Sheets

• What’s already happening at your campus to improve or support students’ first year experiences?

• Do you have other ideas that might support/improve students’ first year experiences?
• Gathering Ideas
  – Students, community members, employees

• Writing the plan (iterative approach)
  – Draft, get feedback, another draft
  – Identify “expert” to assist with the plan and serve on SACS-COC visiting committee

• Develop and begin implementing an “awareness campaign”
With everyone’s help, we’ll submit our QEP to SACS-COC during summer 2011.