



Cornerstone Experience

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update

Summer Conferences Kick Off QEP Professional Development

Cornerstone Experience Trainings Underway



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ESC students and graduates recounted their experiences as first-time college students during a panel presentation at the Understanding the First-Year Student conference in June.

The QEP Professional Development subcommittee is partnering with the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) to design, implement and assess the comprehensive training program for faculty and staff,

To kick-off the Cornerstone Experience professional development activities, two conferences were conducted in the Summer of 2011. In June, the *Understanding the First-Year Student* conference featured Stuart Hunter, Associate Vice President and Executive Director for University 101 Programs and The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina, 78 faculty and staff participants, and a panel of five ESC students.

Noted authority on critical thinking Dr. Gerald Nosich led 67 faculty and staff in a two-day conference in July. Using the Elder/Paul Model, Dr. Nosich introduced aspects of critical thinking and encouraged participants to apply some of the ideas in classrooms and in co-curricular activities.

The QEP Professional Development Subcommittee has also established a series of ten workshops leading to the certification of Cornerstone Experience instructors.

Faculty who wish to teach companion courses do not need to complete the entire certification program; however, participation in select workshops will be required.

Staff and administrators will also be required to complete select modules.

Cornerstone Experience teaching certification workshop titles, dates, and times are posted on the Teaching and Learning Center web page at

http://www.edison.edu/tlc/cornerstone_course.php

QEP PROGRAM GOALS

Through the full implementation of the QEP, the Edison's first-time-in-college students will become self-reliant learners imbued with critical thinking skills.

- ◆ Once fully implemented, the QEP will facilitate an increase in student retention rates, rates of persistence, and graduation rates.
- ◆ Through each phase of implementation, the QEP will foster increased rates of student satisfaction and student engagement.
- ◆ As the faculty complete the Cornerstone Experience Instructor professional development modules, they will apply newly obtained knowledge to their practices to promote critical thinking and enhance the likelihood of success for first-year students.
- ◆ As the staff and administrators complete the Cornerstone Experience Services professional development modules, they will apply practices that promote critical thinking and success to their interactions with first-year students.

Cornerstone Experience Requirement to be Phased In

Beginning in Spring 2012, all FTIC degree-seeking students testing into two or more college prep courses will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience within the first 12 semester hours. The requirement will be phased-in, with all FTIC degree-seeking students taking the course beginning Fall 2015.

Academic Year	Planned Enrollment
Initial Implementation Spring 2012 Summer 2012	All FTIC degree-seeking students testing into two or more developmental courses will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience Open sections available for other students electing to enroll
YEAR 1 Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer 2013	All FTIC degree-seeking students testing into two or more developmental courses will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience Open sections available for other students electing to enroll
YEAR 2 Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Summer 2014	All FTIC degree-seeking students testing into any number of developmental courses will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience Open sections available for other students electing to enroll
YEAR 3 Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2015	All FTIC degree-seeking students testing into any number of developmental courses will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience Open sections available for other students electing to enroll
YEAR 4 Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2016	All FTIC degree-seeking students will be required to enroll in SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience
YEAR 5 Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Summer 2017	As in year four

Walters Named QEP Lead Faculty for Curriculum



Myra Hale Walters, Professor of Speech at the Lee Campus, has been appointed Cornerstone Experience Lead Faculty for Curriculum. Professor Walters has 29 years of teaching experience at ESC, and has been actively involved in the QEP development process since 2008, serving on the FOE Task Force and the QEP Committee, and representing ESC at the 23rd International Conference on the First-Year Experience. Her duties include serving as the liaison to Department chairs and all faculty in matters related to the Cornerstone Experience, actively recruiting faculty to teach the course, finalizing and updating the course syllabus, providing leadership in the selection and procurement of course materials, assisting with related training and development, assuring ongoing dialog among faculty teaching the course district wide through Communities of Practice, and assisting with course evaluation and reporting.

"I am delighted to lead the development of our SLS 1515 Cornerstone Experience curriculum, as I truly believe this course will be a transformational experience for our first-time-in-college students," said Walters. "The support from faculty has been tremendous, and we are looking forward to implementing a myriad of learning activities in our classrooms next Spring."

Professor Walters may be contacted at mwalters@edison.edu or at ext. 1477.