

**Quality Enhancement Team
Breakout Session Results
March 28, 2008**

Questions posed to the team:

- 1. What can we do to enhance the learning environment for our students?**
- 2. What are the problems that prevent us from giving our students the best learning environment, with the resources that we have?**
- 3. Are there faculty driven actions or processes that motivate a student's desire to learn? (Have students to describe their favorite classes and what makes them the favorite).**
- 4. How can we prepare our students for a better learning environment?**

A. The Blue Team:

1. We must help with student transition; academically and with other adjustments.
2. Consider group work in orientation, this will allow students to get to know others.
3. Compass testing: High School counselors should have the correct information to advise students correctly on what is expected for them on the test.
4. Attendance policies: we should have a preferred attendance policy or an incentive to keep students for missing classes.
5. Instruction delivery: variety of methods. Class room environment with group work, visual aid, hands-on, good use of technical aids (blackboard, smart board and chalkboards).

B. The Orange Team:

1. Class availability – scheduling/registration issues.
2. Teachers should have a more positive attitude and show enthusiasm for teaching their subjects, therefore: making the classroom a more desirable learning environment.
3. Hands on teaching methods
 - a. Email contacts.
 - b. Use of chat rooms.
 - c. “Active,” not passive participation in classroom activities.
 - d. Student engagement: activities in lecture based classes.

C. The Green Team.

Advisors and students relationship should be more personal. The advisor should help the students in other ways to motivate the students in positive ways.

1. Remediation opportunities:

Pre-placement testing reviews should take place, thus allowing advisor to place students in the correct classes.
2. Varied teaching styles should be introduced into the classroom. This would make learning more excitable.

3. A consistent (mandatory) attendance policy should be placed in the system. This would make the student more accountable for their part of the education process.

D. The Red Team.

1. The students need to have an attendance policy and be held responsible for the results they show concerning it.
2. New instructional methods need to be introduced in the classrooms. Dynamic interactive and mixed methodology would be great ideas. We must excite our students to desire to gain knowledge and monotone lectures do not work.
3. We must learn how to better motivate our students and involve them in the active ways of learning.

Overall review:

We have realized that we have some situations that are not working in the best outcome for our students. If we can identify these problems we can find solutions for them. This is what quality enhancement plans are about. They will help you build a bridge from the problem to the solution. We need to identify our purpose, goals, objectives, and our outcome.

Some problems that have been identified are:

1. Poor reading skills, especially on an independent level.
2. Poor test performance.
3. Low retention.
4. High failure rates.

What are the differences the quality enhancement plan will make?

1. Enable better reading skills.
2. We will find ways to encourage student activity in their learning process.
3. We will find and set goals that will motivate our students towards better learning skills and bring objective outcomes.
4. We will find the strategies to bring up retention levels, test performances' and we will the failure rates reduce.
5. We will make our faculty more approachable for student needs.
6. We will help transition students into 4yr college systems.

We must ask our students what they expect to gain from their college experiences and how we can help them transition to the next phase of their education experience.