

# the QUEST

Increasing student learning through improved engagement!

Quality Enhancement Plan Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 5

SPRING 2010

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Director of QEP



## Transforming Curriculum and Instruction



### “10 for 2010” Resolutions for Engagement

#### #1 CONNECT WITH STUDENTS

Students are our reason for being. This year, take the time to greet your students, ask them about their concerns and challenges, ask them to partner with you in making your college even better. Make service a priority and help everyone on campus see their role in making connections with students. This may involve doing things in new and creative ways—stretching people into new temporary roles—but everyone, especially your students, will benefit.

#### #2 DEVELOP FACULTY & STAFF

Become involved in the VC Café! Discover new and engaging approaches to teaching, learning, and providing services. Share resources and ideas with your peers. Participate in a [session](#) or call Roxie for individual training today!

#### #3 INQUIRE WITH CURIOSITY

Make 2010 your “Year of Curiosity.” As Albert Einstein once said, “The important thing is to not stop questioning.” Inquiries about student engagement and success will allow you to identify your best practices enabling you to define more clearly our opportunities and challenges.

#### #4 ASSESS ENGAGEMENT

In 2010, make data collection a priority. Vernon College measures student engagement in a number of ways from first-year students with *SENSE* and institution-wide assessment with *CCSSE* to faculty perceptions through *CCFFSE*. These survey tools can help us assess educational quality, recognize areas of strength and pinpoint areas for improvement, and monitor improvement.

#### #5 ENGAGE WITH DATA

Continue to engage with data by participating in the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (*SENSE*) data sharing sessions hosted by the VC Café this April. More details coming soon!

#### #6 SHARE PROMISING PRACTICES

Community college practice isn't a competition. We can learn from one another, both as individual educators and as institutions. Share your experiences with your colleagues. Reach out through professional organizations. Stay on top of promising practices by networking with your peers.

#### #7 FOCUS FOR RESULTS

This year, choose to approach one persistent problem with new eyes. Have a strategy session, appoint a task force, look carefully at pertinent data that paint a complete picture, and allow alternate options to surface. Don't settle for these familiar mantras: “that will never work here” or “we've already tried that and it didn't work.” Allow for the possibility of a solution rather than be constrained by the same problem year after year.

#### #8 CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO

Doing things the way we've always done them doesn't make for great results. It is the consistent mining of data, sustained communication, and ongoing collaboration that yields the best results. Reach for excellence—when looking at your college's results, ask “how good is good enough?”

#### #9 SUPPORT CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOG

Bring colleagues together to talk about data depicting student engagement and student success. In the new year, look for opportunities to provide support for courageous conversations among faculty and staff, making it both safe and valued for people to openly share their experiences and ideas.

#### #10 ACT ON FACT

The hardest thing to do is start. Accountability means we have to assess the situation honestly, without rose colored glasses. It is the end of the first decade of the new millennium. Will Vernon College be continuing into the 21st century with strong student learning outcomes, engaged faculty and staff, and a record of continuing improvement in student success?

Reference: Talking *SENSE* Newsletter Volume 2, Issue 3; published by the Center for Community College Student Engagement; January 2010.

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## Pilot Corner

Michelle  
Alexander



### WELCOME

The 2010-2011 class of pilot participants have been selected! The following are general summaries of their projects which will begin in the Fall 10 semester.

### MICHELLE ALEXANDER

History 1302 students generally do not have the knowledge to successfully conduct research and complete a research paper about a WWII topic. Thus, understanding the origins of the Cold War and history after the Cold War is difficult.

Michelle will be creating a video using an avatar to review historical research methods necessary to be successful in this project. This video will be posted in Blackboard and accessed by students in both the on-line and face-to-face courses. Students will be required to view the video prior to beginning the research. Additionally Michelle will use the chat feature in Wimba Live Classroom to discuss the information presented in the video and assist students throughout the semester as they choose a topic, prepare an outline, first draft, second draft if necessary and submit the final paper.

### KATRINA BRASUELL

Katrina will be creating training videos for the areas of pharmacy practice that cannot be demonstrated in laboratory settings due to budget and space limitations. The videos will also include demonstrated skills students cannot obtain in clinical practicums due to rules and regulations at various facilities. Being able to show students visually will better train them in their profession. The training videos will be filmed using current students and clinical sites. It will be a series to accompany lecture and laboratory sessions and will be used for all future pharmacy technician classes.

### MELISSA ELLIOTT

The financial aid CCSSE benchmarks were well below the mean in two critical areas. This pilot project will address those areas. Melissa will create "Financial Aid TV (FATV)" where students will learn about financial aid through viewing short video clips. Initially she will start with approximately 10 clips using VC students to help communicate. For example, one question might be "How can I pay for college?". When a student selects this clip, a short video will play explaining how they can pay for a college education.

Second, Melissa will create a tutorial titled "8 Easy Steps to the FAFSA". Studies show that millions of eligible students fail to receive financial aid each year because they fail to complete the FAFSA or are intimidated by the form. This tutorial will reduce the process to 8 easy steps and provide step-by-step instructions on how to complete the application.

### DEANA LEHMAN

Most new faculty are unaware of the services available at VC for students with disabilities. Additionally, they are unaware of the steps necessary to provide accommodations to students with disabilities. Therefore, Deana will create a brief orientation video explaining the procedures for providing accommodations or services for VC students with disabilities. The process for viewing the orientation will be initiated by email directing new faculty, including adjunct faculty, to a link on the Special Services webpage.

Further, detailed instructions on how to interpret the information on the Special Accommodation Request to Instructor Form will be provided in the form of video using Camtasia and/or Wimba Live Classroom. The video will be posted to the Special Services webpage.

### RICHARD WARREN

Each task listed below will be accomplished on a virtual machine image, not a physical machine. If mistakes are made, they can be completely reversed in a matter of minutes. The next class that follows will have new Virtual Machines to work on within minutes. The combination of Terminal Server and Virtual Desktop images allows updating the client machine with the latest Computer System Technology.

- \* The instructor will demonstrate installation of MS Office 2007 on virtual system, student will follow along step-by-step.
- \* The instructor will present several scenarios (problem issues) student teams will complete their problem/scenario.
- \* Students will work in teams of 2-3 assisting in a joint effort to complete the installation processes and other assigned problems/scenarios.

### MICHELLE WOOD

The purpose of this project is to make getting information to continuing education students easier and more effective. Information is already presented on the website; however the office repeatedly receives numerous questions over the same subject matter due to printed material not being read.

Michelle will use Camtasia software to strategically place instructional demonstrations on each of the continuing education web pages to assist students who need help navigating the website find more information.

Additionally, explanation videos of each of the continuing education programs will be made available, as a supplement to written fliers, to help students understand program requirements.



Katrina  
Brasuell



Melissa  
Elliott



Deana  
Lehman



Richard  
Warren



Michelle  
Wood

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Vernon Campus:  
 Faculty Innovation Center  
 Library RM 208

Century City Center:  
 Faculty Innovation Center  
 RM 505

## PASS Center

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Vernon College PASS Center can offer our students these services?

Free Tutorials in:

- \* Basic Math
- \* Algebra—all levels
- \* Trigonometry
- \* Spanish
- \* Government
- \* History
- \* Sociology
- \* Psychology
- \* Nursing Skills
- \* And More!

Services in:

- \* Time Management
- \* Study Skills
- \* Test Anxiety
- \* Test Taking

As you become engaged with our students, you may be in a position to recommend these services to specific students. Please refer them to:

- \* VER: [Bobbie White](#) ext. 2309
- \* CCC: [Angela Walker](#) ext. 3257
- \* STC: [Debbie Richard](#) ext. 3840
- \* SLC: [Jonathon Dunn](#) ext. 4210

Note:

Paid tutor positions are available and in great demand. If you know any individuals who might be qualified to tutor please refer them to the appropriate contact listed above. Thank you!

## Professional Development Opportunities

### Roxie's Connection

#### VC CAFÉ SESSIONS

*Mark your calendar... for the VC Café Spring 10 Kickoff!!!*

We will kick off the semester with a Lunch and Learn Session (at each campus): Lunch will be served.

**2-9-10 CCC 500 at 12PM**  
**2-10-10 STC 211 at 12PM**  
**2-11-10 VC 428 at 12PM**

New this semester PRIZE DRAWINGS!!! Your name will be entered each time you attend a VC Café Session for a chance to win a prize which will be awarded at the end of the semester.

Please RSVP via email to [Roxie Hill](#) by 12 noon on Friday, February 5 if you plan on eating lunch with us.

See VC Café Session [full schedule](#) for details.

Century City Center			
Date	Session Name	Time	Room
2-9-10	<b>Qwizdom Clickers</b>	12-1PM	CCC500
3-2-10	<b>Teaching Tools</b>	12-1PM	CCC500
3-10-10	<b>WIMBA</b>	12-1PM	CCC503
Vernon Campus			
Date	Session Name	Time	Room
2-11-10	<b>Qwizdom Clickers</b>	12-1PM	V428
3-4-10	<b>Teaching Tools</b>	12-1PM	V428
3-11-10	<b>WIMBA</b>	12-1PM	V428
Skills Training Center			
Date	Session Name	Time	Room
2-10-10	<b>Qwizdom Clickers</b>	12-1PM	STC 211
3-3-10	<b>Teaching Tools</b>	12-1PM	STC 211