

Vernon College Quality Enhancement Plan

The goal of the Vernon College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), named VConnected, is to increase student learning through improved engagement by fostering an environment of collaboration and connectivity between students, faculty, and support personnel. The College will improve student learning by focusing on engagement through a three-part plan: transform curriculum and instruction, provide innovative professional development opportunities, and create a technology rich environment for instructional and student support services. Faculty and staff will be provided the necessary training for successful QEP implementation. The initial focus of professional development activities will be to create a base of new knowledge about assessment tools such as the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), engagement techniques, and innovative technologies. The next emphasis will be placed on providing strategies for incorporating engagement into courses and services which will lead to higher achievement of student learning outcomes. Vernon College will target student learning outcomes on a project-by-project basis using established competencies from course syllabi. As engagement techniques are integrated into a course or project, specific student learning outcomes will be tracked and assessed to determine if increased learning did occur due to increased engagement techniques. Adjunct faculty, distance learning courses, and online courses will receive the same attention and training as face-to-face courses.

Following approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, formal implementation of the Vernon College QEP begins Fall 2009. Pilot projects have been conducted since the spring 2008 semester as a means of testing the applicability of different engagement strategies and will continue into the implementation phase. As the QEP progresses, collaboration and connectivity will remain the foundation for success in high achievement of student learning outcomes.