**What Is the QEP and Why Should You Care?**

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a long-term assessment plan that will provide an institutional course of action to improve student learning. While it is a requirement for SACS reaffirmation of accreditation, it affords West Georgia Technical College the opportunity to focus on one area that will enhance overall quality and effectiveness. It is important that faculty, staff, and students are all well informed of our plan as a college to improve student learning.

**What Is WGTC’s QEP?**

Through a comprehensive selection process over the last two years, WGTC’s QEP topic was proposed by LaGrange Campus math instructor Ron Murphy. The plan focuses on improving student learning in learning support mathematics: **Reaching the Summit: Conquering Mathematics.**

**Why Learning Support Math?**

- Of the 3428 WGTC students enrolled in LS courses in FY 2011, 57% needed math remediation.
- Data over the last two FY reveals declining student success rates in our learning support math courses (MATH 0097, 0098, and 0099) and in the subsequent college algebra course (MATH 1111). The success rate for the highest level of LS (MATH 0099) over the last 8 quarters has averaged only 47.28%.
- Students who do not succeed in learning support cannot advance to college algebra, which is required for all associate degree programs.

**So, What Are We Doing?**

**What is the goal?** The goal of our QEP is . . .

...to improve student learning and success in learning support math courses and in the subsequent college algebra course.

**How do we do that?** The proposed plan is to redesign the existing course sequence of MATH 0097, 0098, and 0099 using what is called a “math emporium” model that has been used successfully by many other colleges and universities. The model is based on a modular mastery approach that will allow students to progress through the math competencies at an accelerated pace with multiple exit points.

"Mathematics is not a careful march down a well-cleared highway, but a journey into a strange wilderness, where the explorers often get lost.”

-W.S. Anglin
Who Is This ALEKS I’m Hearing About?

The QEP will use Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS), an interactive, Web-based software program designed to help students reach subject-matter mastery. The software is composed of interactive math tutorials, exercise demonstrations, practice exercises, and assessment instruments that provide students with frequent assessment and immediate feedback. Through this process, students are assured of mastering one concept before they can move onto the next.

What’s Happening Already?

“We wanted to create an atmosphere in the developmental class that is conducive to learning and fostering success in the degree and diploma math classes required of all our students. This is a great step forward by WGTC to make this commitment and be a leader in Georgia education. WGTC will be the model that other schools will be copying.”

-Ron Murphy

Fall semester pilot with instructor Ron Murphy (37 of 45 students passed their learning support math course; that’s 82%)!

True or False?

Answer TRUE or FALSE for each question below.

1. QEP stands for Quality Entertainment Project.
2. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, better known as SACS, requires that all colleges develop a QEP to enhance student learning.
3. WGTC’s QEP is a five-year plan that focuses on improving student learning in learning support mathematics.
4. ALEKS is the Scandinavian consultant hired to implement WGTC’s QEP.

These pilot students chose the QEP logo and designed their own t-shirts, so if you see a student wearing a t-shirt that says, “I’m a Smart-ALEKS math student at WGTC!” ask what it’s all about.

Next month: Meet the QEP Implementation Team, including the champion faculty! Vote on the QEP theme song!

For more information about the QEP, please contact the QEP Director, Dr. Sindi McGowan, or one of the QEP Faculty Coordinators, Ron Murphy or Brian Barkley.

I’m a Smart-ALEKS math student at West Georgia Technical College