



Math: The Bridge to Success

Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan

April 2012 Newsletter

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan. We are now focused mainly on professional development and incorporating learner-centered teaching into our classes. What is learner-centered teaching? What does it mean to foster a supportive learning environment? These are questions that will be answered through various professional development opportunities throughout the College.



Kaye Betz
QEP Director

Meet the Professors

The following mathematics professors participated in the QEP during the spring term and will continue in the fall term:

Winter Haven and JDA Professors

Larry Albright
Roger Aleman
Joyce Lee
Paul Pletcher
Cindy Scofield

Lakeland Professors

Anna Butler
Richard Decker
Lorne Fairbairn
Nerissa Felder
Steve Frye
Max Hawkins
Richard Leedy
Penny Morris
Jim Rhodes
David Rose

Additional faculty members who will begin participating in the fall term:

Mike Malone, Lakeland
Stephen Drier, Winter Haven



Mike Malone



Stephen Drier

Using Brain Science to Make Teaching Stick!

Presented by Sharon Bowman

January 5, 2012



Stephen Drier talks with Sharon Bowman about teaching strategies.



Becky Rhodes discusses activities with Sharon Bowman.

The response to the workshops was overwhelming. Sharon offered a morning workshop in Winter Haven, an afternoon workshop in Lakeland, and an evening workshop in Lakeland designed specifically for adjuncts. In all, more than 125 faculty participated in the training.

Comments from
participants included:

“This professional development workshop provides a rejuvenating educational opportunity for educators!”

“Ms. Bowman’s workshop made me realize how much more learning can happen in each classroom hour.”

“This gave me ‘permission’ to change from a lecture format and encourage student ownership of learning.”

“With this information, I am ready to apply the tools learned and share with other instructors how to increase student engagement in their classes.”

Thank you to everyone who participated!

What's Next?

So, what do we do with the teaching strategies that we learned in the workshops? Mathematics faculty participating in the QEP Bridge Building Sessions were given the opportunity this term to use strategies from Sharon Bowman's book and present sample lessons to the group. It was great practice, and many of the participants either used their own lesson in their class or a lesson someone else presented.

Some faculty may have already put a few of the active learning strategies into action in the classroom this term. Others may still be reflecting and planning how to include them next term. If you did something different in your classes this term to include more active learning or to make your classes more learner-centered, please drop a note to Kaye Betz, kbetz@polk.edu, sharing what you did. Five of these will be selected and the instructor will be given an official QEP mug.

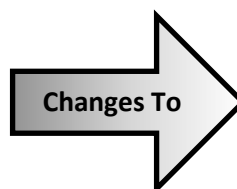
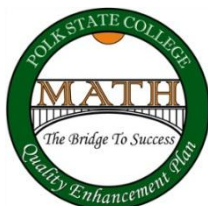
We have gorgeous mugs for right-handed faculty,



...and gorgeous mugs for left-handed faculty.

New Logo

Our Quality Enhancement Plan, Math: The Bridge to Success, has a new logo. It is similar to the original logo but with a few modifications. The most noticeable change is that the orange and green colors are now red and black. Other subtle changes include adjusting the fonts for consistency and removing the sun.



Polk State College Delegation Attends Training Workshop Atlanta, Georgia – February 2012

Five members of the QEP Implementation Team attended a training workshop in Atlanta, Georgia, in February. The three-day workshop was filled with learning new strategies.

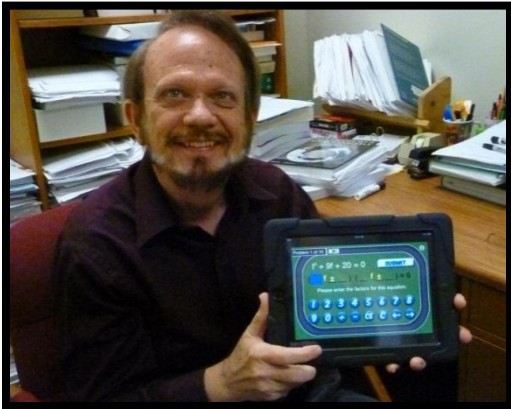


From left to right: Lynda Wolverton, Courtlann Thomas, Kaye Betz, Beverly Woolery, and Becky Pugh

**Beverly Woolery and
Becky Pugh learn about
the brain and the role of
each part of the brain in
the learning process.**



Classroom Enhancement Grant



Congratulations Richard Leedy!

Richard is the first recipient of the QEP Classroom Enhancement Grant. He used the grant to purchase an iPad, which he has been using in the classroom to enhance instruction.

Sponsored by The Polk State College Foundation and administered by the QEP Implementation Team, each year one \$1,000 grant is awarded to a faculty member to purchase materials for learner-centered activities in the classroom. During this first year, the grant was open only to mathematics faculty. For the next two years, the grant will be open to all faculty members who have three or more years of continuous regular full-time faculty status. Details will be available at the beginning of the fall term.

Lunch and Learn ~ Breakfast and Learn

This term Dr. Naomi Boyer offered two sessions of Creating a Community of Practice through Action Research, and Dr. Gregory McColm from the University of South Florida was the guest speaker at a session on teaching mathematics. If you would like to present a lunch and learn or a breakfast and learn for fall term, please contact Courtlann Thomas, cthomas@polk.edu.

Developmental Math Support

This term Debra Laraway has been spending part of her time in the Lakeland TLCC developing processes to bridge the gap between how the topics are taught in the mathematics classroom and how the students are tutored in the TLCC. She has produced help sheets on specific topics, a newsletter for the math tutors, and a bookmark that has tips for the students. She has also worked with the tutors on how to better explain certain topics.



For updates on the QEP, visit the QEP web page: www.polk.edu/qep.