



Math: The Bridge to Success

Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan

July 2011 Newsletter

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of Polk State College's Quality Enhancement Plan. Students often wonder about the QEP banners and displays they see as they drive on campus. As we start fall registration, they may ask you, "What is the QEP?" The QEP Implementation Team and I request your assistance in more positively explaining the purpose of the QEP to students and the community:

It's all about quality enhancement. We are enhancing our mathematics program, specifically in the way topics in Intermediate Algebra are delivered. The enhancement is not limited to mathematics. Enhanced teaching methods are being used in other areas as well. Learner-centered teaching and a supportive learning environment are important parts of our plan.

Together, as a team, we can frame the QEP in a positive light for our students as we move forward with enhancing our teaching and student support services, not only in mathematics, but in other areas as well.

Thank you. - Kaye



Kaye Betz
QEP Director

Does Your Course Rely on Students Having Intermediate Algebra Knowledge?

If you teach a non-math course that relies on specific knowledge from Intermediate Algebra, we would like for you to share that with the mathematics faculty who are teaching QEP classes so that we can add more relevance to the course. In the fall, we have set aside Tuesdays, 1:30-3:00 for Bridge Building Sessions. Course content, teaching strategies, technology, and other topics will be discussed during these sessions. Please contact Kaye Betz, ext. 6228 to set up a day to share your course content with the group. The sessions will alternate between the Winter Haven and Lakeland campuses.

Meet the Professors

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

Winter Haven and JDA Professors

Roger Aleman
Joyce Lee
Paul Pletcher
Cindy Scofield

Lakeland Professors

Richard Decker
Lorne Fairbairn
Steve Frye
Richard Leedy
Penny Morris

Three additional faculty members will begin participating in the fall term:



Anna Butler
Lakeland



Nerissa Felder
Lakeland



Larry Albright
Winter Haven

QEP T-shirt Travels Abroad

I have been pleasantly surprised to see the QEP t-shirts all around Polk County. Thanks to Anna Butler's son, the t-shirt has now traveled all the way to Greece and Turkey!

Professional Development

Dr. Phyllis Blumberg, author of *Developing Learner-Centered Teaching*, visited Polk State College June 6-8. Forty-seven faculty and staff attended her sessions entitled *Teaching and Assessing so your Students will Learn More*. She also met individually with the mathematics faculty to discuss learner-centered teaching in their particular classes. For the past year, Dr. Blumberg has provided guidance for our QEP.



In the fall term we plan to have several professional development activities, including Lunch and Learns. A schedule of those activities will be posted in the next newsletter.

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