Title: Creating a Community of Learners through Active Learning and Student Engagement

Focus: Improvement of student performance on learning outcomes for which active learning and student engagement instructional strategies are appropriate.

Vision: The overarching quest of the Quality Enhancement Plan is to maximize student learning at all levels: general education, undergraduate education, and graduate education.

Principal Goal: For each individual program that contributes to student learning, program faculty will have identified a clear set of student learning outcomes at the program and individual course/activity levels, specified methods of assessing whether students have achieved the outcomes, and reviewed and modified the instructional component of programs/activities to ensure that appropriate strategies are being used to help students achieve the desired outcomes. These strategies are expected to embody active learning approaches; to lead to increased levels of student and faculty/staff engagement in the learning process in curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities; and to provide opportunity for effective participation as members of a community of learners.

Rational for Selection: Criteria used in selecting the focus included the following.

- Relationship to University vision and mission statements:
  Vision: Distinguish UWF as the premier creative, student-centered university focused on excellence.
  Mission: Empower each individual we serve with knowledge and opportunity to contribute responsibly and creatively to a complex world.
- Consistency with overall thrust of other enhancement plans currently underway: Making Way for Excellence
- Potential for building upon current perceived University strengths and aspirations: "Engaged with students, engaged with the community and region, engaged with the world, engaged in providing opportunities."
- Potential for cooperative and collaborative activities between Academic and Student Affairs.
- Potential for engaging all academic and student affairs departments over the projected five-year span of the QEP.
- Potential for practical evaluation of learning outcomes and data-based decision making.

Baseline Data: President’s annual survey of students, faculty, staff, and community; departmental strategic plans; campus administration of National Survey of Student Engagement; UWF Service Excellence Culture Audit; and QEP-specific survey of faculty and students.