

# **QEP – A Plan for Enhancing Student Learning Across the Curriculum**

## **QEP and Accreditation**

- ◆ A Quality Enhancement Plan is a requirement of the accreditation process
- ◆ SACS Site Visit focuses on the QEP
- ◆ Site Visit is October 4 – 6
- ◆ The QEP focuses on a topic NVC gets to choose: “A topic that is creative and vital to the long-term improvement of student learning.” (SACS Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation, 2003)
- ◆ QEP = enhancement of student learning
- ◆ Student Learning = ASK (Attitudes, Skills, and Knowledge)
- ◆ QEP = a focus on **three** ASK objectives

## **What do I need to know when SACS is here for the Site Visit?**

- ◆ QEP focuses on assessing three ASK outcomes across the curriculum
  - Communication (specifically, speaking and writing)
  - Collaboration
  - Critical Thinking
- ◆ “The Three C’s”
- ◆ Broad-based involvement: Using something related to ASK as the focus of the QEP bubbled up through strategic planning, work group discussions, and discipline data. A team of faculty looked at discipline data regarding what outcomes are being assessed, and The Three C’s emerged: these are the most frequently addressed outcomes. These are also the outcomes students most need for success in school, work, and life.
- ◆ Assessment of these three outcomes will be phased in
  - Speaking Across the Curriculum assessments began three years ago
  - Writing Across the Curriculum assessments began last year
  - Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum assessments begin this year
  - Collaboration Across the Curriculum begins next year

# QEP Executive Summary

Northwest Vista College's quality enhancement plan (QEP), *Assessing Student Learning Across the Curriculum* adds depth and breadth to current assessments of student learning in the general education curriculum.

Current assessment efforts center around twelve faculty-identified student learning outcomes. This set of outcomes, known as ASK (attitudes, skills, and knowledge) helps faculty evaluate the progress of their individual disciplines as well as assess student learning. Through analysis of data, three of these outcomes have been identified by faculty as the most significant to address: communication (writing and speaking, in particular), collaboration, and critical thinking. The QEP will focus on assessing these three outcomes across the curriculum, galvanizing discipline assessment efforts in these areas.

The QEP has five objectives to address over the course of this five-year plan:

1. Create buy-in for the across the curriculum assessments;
2. Assess targeted across-the-curriculum ASK outcomes;
3. Use the results;
4. Support faculty;
5. Provide financial support to implement and sustain the QEP.

With this quality enhancement plan, three perspectives will complete the portrait of student learning at NVC: the student perspective (through survey data); the faculty perspective (through discipline ASK assessment efforts); and the interdisciplinary perspective (through across-the-curriculum assessment of three critical outcomes).