

Western in Motion...

October 2006

Academic Quality Improvement Program

Principles of High Performance Organizations

A web of common **VALUES** permeates colleges that have achieved a systematic approach to **continuous improvement**. Not only do these principles underlie all of the **AQIP** categories and processes, but they are the values to which AQIP itself aspires.

<i>Focus</i>	<i>Learning</i>
<i>Involvement</i>	<i>Leadership</i>
<i>People</i>	<i>Agility</i>
<i>Foresight</i>	<i>Information</i>
<i>Integrity</i>	<i>Collaboration</i>

As an institution considers moving into the AQIP process, having these principles as a part of the culture provides a framework to begin the process. Identifying how the AQIP categories parallel the individual institutions own Vision, Mission, and Goals is a BIG first step. In the next issue, we will talk about the AQIP categories and WWCC's own Guiding Principles. Read more at www.aqip.org.

Continuous Quality Improvement

The Vital Few

For the 2005-2008 cycle, the Assessment Team is targeting these "Vital Few" areas: (1) **Writing Across the Curriculum**, specifically citing of sources, (2) **Computer Competency** in terms of identifying and implementing an acceptable assessment tool, and (3) **Word-Processing Across the Curriculum**.

Highlighting Vital Few #1: Writing Across the Curriculum

Plan: Encourage faculty to use Smarthinking and Turnitin. Track faculty use via surveys and student use. Include adjunct faculty in the conversation. Look for improvement in student writing. *Continued on reverse...*

Goals for Student Success Assessment Findings

During the 2005-2006 assessment period, the A-Team found an overall improvement in the 50 research and self-reflection papers assessed. Although the A-Team was excited to see that writing is being assigned across the curriculum, with some writing elements showing consistent improvement the referencing of sources was inconsistent and in some cases non-existent, which ultimately resulted in plagiarism. With Writing identified as one of the "Vital Few", the A-Team is optimistic that this will continue to improve. There has been an increase in the

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CALENDAR

- **November 16, 2006** A-Team Meeting at noon in A-101
- **Spring 2007** Follow-up Faculty Survey on the "Vital Few"

For more information...

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GSS Continued...

use of Smarthinking and Turnitin for both the students and faculty, which seems to be making an impact. Within the two writing assessments of Research and Self-Reflection, one group met the benchmark, the other did not. 92% of the

Research Writing students performed *above* the Criteria for Success of “90% of the students will score above 67%” whereas scoring at 83% the **Self-Reflection** fell *below* the Criteria for Success of “90% of the students will score 67% or better.” The area of improvement for the Self-Reflection is the writing ability and future application, which is a part of the “Vital Few.”

Presentational Speaking is holding steady for our students with the score *falling just below* the Criteria for Success for the 2nd year in a row. 88% (89% last year) of the students scored 67% or better. As shared in multiple venues, our students overall met the **Computer Competency** Criteria for Success. However, when comparing which students met the benchmark, those *who did not take a computer course performed well below the Criteria for Success.*



Vital Few Continued...

#1 **Measures & Outcomes:** Over the last year, faculty use of on-line support via **Smarthinking &/or Turnitin** has increased dramatically. From our initial survey to the latest survey this fall, faculty use has increased from 44% to 81% for research/writing assignments. After a “full court press” with the adjunct faculty, faculty use has increased from 38% to 67%. Student interactions are on the rise as well. Last year there were 3027 student interactions on **Smarthinking** compared to 1108 for the year previous. As of **October 1, 2006**, there have already been **3802 student interactions**. **Turnitin** is seeing the same type of increase. To date, there have been **609** submissions compared to 928 for all of last year.

More progress on the “Vital Few” in the next issue...

Update on Program Review

Forging Trails.... Breaking New Ground

Pioneering a new “Program Review Follow-Up” process, the programs which underwent Program Review last year have chosen to lead the way by

adopting an AQIP-like follow-up method. The new follow-up forms, tracking goal assessment and action plans/future directions, will be completed annually, starting one year after the written portion of the report is completed.

“Though accountability matters, learning still matters most.”

Thomas A. Angelo

This academic year, four administrative/support services programs (**Distance Education, Financial Aid, Green River Center Administration, and Physical Resources**) and six instructional programs (**Automotive Technology/Diesel & Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Biology, Computer Science/Web Development, Education, PTCE, and Social Science General Education**) are currently undergoing Program Review.

