**QEP Pre-Proposal:**

**Communicating Our Excellence: Enriched Communication Curricula Across the University**

Communication is essential for professional success and a healthy civil society.This is true for all majors, including those typically understood as more math- or science-focused. Indeed, in the FAU QEP surveys, employers and faculty ranked the abilities to communicate effectively and to think critically as two of the top three needs of our graduating students. Towards this end, this proposal seeks to develop a comprehensive Communication Across the Curriculum (CAC) initiative. With an emphasis on four communication frameworks--written, spoken, visual, and digital/technological, the CAC would work at all levels of the university and its wider communities to benefit all students and increase their prospects for professional success. It would foster curricular change through departmental self-study, especially in the upper division, faculty support, and departmentally determined assessment outcomes, procedures, and tools. It would strengthen and build upon existing university-wide initiatives and student services. It would promote community outreach and effective workplace communication, with attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion. By empowering students with greater communication abilities, this initiative promises to make our graduates better prepared for graduate programs and more competitive for higher earning jobs, thereby growing FAU’s reputation in the community and nation-wide.

Both university-wide and department-specific objectives and metrics for student success in each of the four communication frameworks will be set and evaluated. Project success would be measured by how well we serve students, departmental improvement of annual Compact SLOs, and community feedback. Institutionally, success will be marked by community engagement trends and university metrics, such as student academic progress, and, one year after graduation, the percent of Bachelor’s enrolled in the U.S., employment rates, and median student wages. Staff from the CAC team would facilitate departmental discussions in concert with faculty liaisons to determine specific departmental goals, map their curriculum, create assessment tools, and develop plans to implement these changes over the course of a five-year iterative process. Finally, communication outcomes will recognize the need for ethical communication practices--including developing stronger information literacy and addressing diverse audiences--to foster a more ethical workforce and citizenry.

This QEP would provide equitable support for existing writing and speaking centers and establish a university Center for Visual and Digital Scholarship, to be located in the Boca library. Additionally, it would collaborate with the FAU Career Center, Weppner Center for LEAD and Service-Learning, Community Center for Excellence in Writing, and departments with internship programs to establish a liaison for workplace communication, who would facilitate relationships among all workplace communication initiatives and would strengthen community outreach. It would also reestablish a director of scholarship for teaching on campus to coordinate scholarship on teaching and faculty training in collaboration with directors of all student support services. A single director would oversee the CAC initiative, with directors and assistant directors leading the individual centers. The comprehensive approach would enable FAU to leverage resources such as scheduling systems, training programs, hiring practices, industry interaction, and assessment procedures across all centers to best serve FAU faculty and students and our greater community.

Representatives from each college, directors of the current UCEW/WAC program, Speaking Center, FAU libraries, Career Center, Elearning, and OIT will collaborate to develop the full proposal.

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