

## ***Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Action Project:***

### ***Access to Excellence: The Developmental Curriculum***

***September, 2007***

#### **1. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.**

During the first year we focused efforts on developing our partnership with the College of St. Catherine through the Augsburg Advantage at St. Kate's (AASK). Students who applied to Augsburg but did not meet admission requirements were recommended to the AASK program. If successful, these students could matriculate to Augsburg for the next academic year. Nine students entered the AASK program. Five of the nine students successfully completed the program but only two chose to attend Augsburg. Several changes were made to the program for the 2007-2008 academic year in order to increase the number of students who 1) successfully complete the program and 2) choose to attend Augsburg. Twenty four students are enrolled in the AASK program for the 2007-2008 academic year.

The Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) was given to all entering 1<sup>st</sup> year students. A sample of students was retested at the end of the first year to investigate changes in study skills across the first year. This data will serve as a baseline upon which to compare future cohorts who have been exposed to a more intentional focus on improving study skills. The data has yet to be analyzed.

#### **2. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.**

Enrollment Management developed an enrollment plan that took changing MN demographics into account. The diversity collaborative hosted a program by the state demographer and economist on changing MN demographics and the implications of change for higher education. The entire campus was invited. Close to a hundred participated, including faculty, academic support staff, student services staff, and enrollment management staff. The "first year student workshop" included presentations on critical thinking and student development; and on experiential education and student development. The director of assessment, director of academic advising, staff in the tutoring office, and associate dean for general education collaborated on the LASSI project.

#### **3. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.**

The college is poised to begin re-thinking the development curriculum on our campus. A Developmental Curriculum Task Force will be created to address the following issues:

determine learning needs of our changing population of incoming students and establish appropriate institutional parameters; inform ourselves about best practices in addressing learning needs of under-prepared students; evaluate and adjust our assessment procedures and developmental curriculum for under-prepared students in view of these best practices and in conversation with on-campus experts and stakeholders; develop a process of on-going reassessment of the success of the assessment procedures and curriculum in achieving Augsburg's promise of "Access and Excellence" for all of our students. This committee will consist of faculty who teach the current developmental courses, and representatives from the following departments: Dean's office, TRIO program, Academic Advising, Admissions, Academic Skills Office, and Center for Teaching and Learning.

**4. Describe an "effective practice(s)" that resulted from work on this Action project.**

The project is still in its infancy. We are, however, learning about more effective ways to use LASSI. We need students to know the results early and for individual results to be the focus of individual meetings with academic advisors.

**5. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?**

Finding best practices in the developmental curriculum area and getting faculty buy-in once the committee makes a recommendation for proposed changes.

**6. Help from AQIP**

AQIP could direct us to best practices/exemplary institutions.

