QEP Off to a Good Start
Development Teams Will Pilot Their Modules during the Fall Semester

Seven HCC science faculty members spent Summer I designing and creating problem-based learning modules to be utilized in Biology 1406, Chemistry 1411 and Physics 1401 courses during 2013-2014. Three Biology faculty: Audrey Bush, Leena Sawant and Pauline Ward; two Chemistry faculty; Paul Clemens and Ammani Krishnaswamy; and two Physics faculty: Aaron Marks and Yuriy Pinelis were lead and supported by QEP Director Tineke Berends, and her Associate Director, Jennifer O’Neil. Instructional design advice was available from Terri Bubb, an instructional designer with Teaching and Learning Resources.

New Faces
An Associate to the Director and a Secretary are added to QEP Personnel

Jennifer O’Neil (pictured above) came on board during the Spring 2012 semester from the biology faculty at Northwest College. One of her major contributions was to assist in writing the final QEP document. She also provided support for Camp INSPIRE and the launch of the forum.

Earlier this year, Dr. Berends and Dr. O’Neil created an online QEP Faculty Forum open to all faculty in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Suggestions and advice concerning the modules were solicited via the forum, and science faculty members were apprised of the progress of the three teams through daily updates posted on the forums’ wiki pages. The online sites were also used as discussion forums for the faculty to comment on questions concerning teaching methods, textbook issues and other instructional matters of interest.

Leona Sanders (pictured above) joined the QEP team as Secretary to the QEP Director in July 2012. She may be a familiar face to some in that she has been a library assistant at the Northeast College for the past three years.
Faculty Teams Produce Three Modules

The QEP learning modules are designed to cover one textbook chapter in the basic science courses. Topics were chosen by faculty during roundtable discussions led by the Program Coordinators in each discipline during Camp INSPIRE. The module developers created unique case studies for each discipline that will incorporate active and collaborative teaching strategies, address common student misconceptions and provide instructors with a toolbox of online and offline learning objects that will enhance student learning.

The Physics module will address the concept of vectors, 2-D kinematics and projectile motion. Students will act as ballistic specialists as they solve the murder of a famous actor on a movie set. This module will also include a laboratory exercise that will enable students to test their hypothesis and solve the crime! New equipment for this lab exercise was recently purchased using QEP funds.

The Chemistry module covers stoichiometry. Students will act as quality control chemists in an automobile factory and will examine the chemistry behind the proper deployment of airbags in car crashes. Students will form hypothesis and examine data before solving the case.

The Biology module will address all aspects of cellular respiration. Students will act as CSI interns investigating a suspicious death.

You can read the daily blogs written by the module developers during Summer I on the QEP faculty forum, under “wikis”.

Scenes from Camp INSPIRE January and May 2012

For more information, questions or feedback
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