

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN for EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
*Enhancing Student Learning through the Development of Identity and
Christian Servant Leadership*



QEP Director, Dr. John Harris
jharris@etbu.edu

Chartered as the College of Marshall in 1912, East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) has built its identity as a regional institution committed to Christian higher education offering undergraduate degree programs in the liberal arts and professions. After a broad-based effort, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic, ***Enhancing Student Learning through the Development of Identity and Christian Servant Leadership***, was adopted. Pursuant to the educational purpose and mission of ETBU, the student-learning outcomes for the QEP are to demonstrate **growth in identity, comprehension of Christian servant leadership principles, and the integration of both through service learning**. The QEP reflects the distinctive character of ETBU and is intended to enhance both the educational experiences of our students and the capacity of our graduates to be mature servant-leaders.

The QEP will be focused on religion majors and the religion faculty, who have the primary responsibility to implement the program. In so far as the QEP will rely also on selected general education courses and faculty, they also will undergird the program. The QEP is to be implemented during a five-year process, starting with a planning and preparation year in 2008-2009. Each freshman cohort, beginning with 2009-2010, will participate in activities and assessments for the next four years through 2012-2013.

The QEP draws insight and direction from the extensive professional literature review and best practices. The QEP Implementation Committee will oversee the use of recognized and proven assessment instruments, embedded course assessments, as well as individual and group participation and evaluation methods. These processes are intended to enhance the students' awareness, provide means of review for students and their mentors, stimulate accelerated identity growth, and produce student-learning results beyond those of the normal university educational program. The University has committed significant funding to implement the program.

The QEP Director will conduct the overall implementation of the plan, with support from the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE). An annual Institutional Effectiveness Plan (IEP) will assure continuous monitoring of the QEP over a four-year span, achieve coordination with the existing institutional effectiveness review processes, and offer direction for possible QEP improvement and application beyond the Department of Religion.

ETBU asserts that this QEP will produce significant and enduring results through the positive transformations that result from enhanced student identity and effectiveness in Christian servant leadership and the extension of the University's purpose and mission through improved academic program development beyond the QEP.