Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Title: **Start. Stay. Finish**
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Edgecombe Community College (ECC) is a comprehensive two-year institution dedicated to fulfilling the educational, training, and cultural needs of the communities it serves. In keeping with this mission, the College has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve retention and progression of students new to college, between the ages of 19-39, enrolled in 12 or more credit hours (full-time) in the fall semester. Our QEP focuses on the full implementation of Starfish, an early alert software program, and will incorporate expanded tutoring services as strategies for our student success. This initiative is called "**Start. Stay. Finish**."

A QEP Core Committee, comprised of administrators, faculty, staff, and students, was formed in January 2017. The QEP committee conducted a search for a topic through a wide variety of methods: brainstorming sessions, reviewing the latest State Performance Measures for Student Success, and surveying all College personnel, students, and business community constituents. One theme that surfaced consistently was the need to improve student success through better communication and enhanced supplemental instructional services. The emphasis of our topic grew out of an institution-wide discussion about what we could do better at ECC that was focused and student-centered.

A QEP research sub-committee was formed to further investigate first-year progression and retention. The guiding research question placed before the QEP research sub-committee was, "Given prior extensive brainstorming sessions held by the QEP Core Team that explored various components of student support, what is being done regionally, state-wide, and nationally by similar two-year educational institutions to show support of new students while improving retention and progression for this population of students?"   Upon review of the findings from the QEP research sub-committee and with a realistic consideration of sufficient human, financial, and physical resources, it was determined that ECC would focus on the full implementation of Starfish as an early alert tool and expand tutoring services as strategies for student success.

In summary, ECC's QEP consists of two primary strategies to improve retention and progression of students new to college, between the ages of 19-39, enrolled in 12 or more credit hours (full-time) in the fall semester: an early alert system and expanded tutoring services. When fully implemented, the early alert system enables College personnel to monitor and intervene with the appropriate services to keep students in college and help them progress towards graduation. With these initiatives, Edgecombe Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan is therefore designed to improve retention and progression, leading to college completion and student success through "**Start. Stay. Finish.**"