

Executive Summary

QEP Title: Transforming Students in Preparation for Tomorrow's Professions

Institution: Tougaloo College

Contact: Frederick L. Hunter Jr., MSW MA

Executive Summary

Tougaloo College is a private, coeducational, historically black four-year liberal arts college located on West County Line Road on the northern edge of Jackson, Mississippi, and was founded in 1869. The College is celebrating its 150th anniversary this academic year with the theme: *Transforming Lives, Transforming the World*. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is designed to engage learners in a process that challenges their prevailing frames of reference while equipping them with knowledge and skills to develop a new understanding to broaden their learning experience, and encourage them to engage in life-long learning as they work toward their career aspirations.

The selection of the new topic, Transforming Students in Preparation for Tomorrow's Professions, was guided by an intentional assessment of Tougaloo College's mission, strategic plan, and institutional effectiveness outcomes. Focus groups included alumni, staff, faculty, and students, who all expressed a universal desire to ensure students receive a strong liberal arts education that encompasses the academic, social, and professional skills to achieve meaningful and fulfilling careers. In keeping with the institution's long-standing history, through this QEP theme, Tougaloo will further equip graduates to become leaders and change-makers in their communities.

Tougaloo College has focused considerable attention on transforming the academic environment to impact student learning through various initiatives across campus, both inside and outside the classroom. The Career Pathway Initiative fostered the intentional integration of academic and career preparation through a re-design of the general education curriculum. This initiative provided the campus with a fresh new approach to curriculum and instruction that was innovative, meaningful, and applicable to 21st-century student.

The QEP has one overarching goal: to engage students in career exploration through curricular and co-curricular learning experiences to develop professional competencies in communication, teamwork, and leadership. The goal will be effectively measured through direct assessments in capstone courses and indirect assessments in student focus groups.

A QEP Coordinator has been selected, and the budget has been approved for the implementation of the five-year initiative.