

## Executive Summary

Welcome to the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Atlanta Technical College (ATC) has developed in support of its application for reaffirmation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The QEP reflects Atlanta Technical College's commitment to student learning and its dedication to progressively addressing the concerns of the student community. This Quality Enhancement Plan presents each of the elements required for submission to SACS. These elements include the process used to develop the QEP, the identification of the QEP topic, the review of the literature and best practices, the actions to be implemented, the timeline for implementation, the resources allocated for implementation, and the comprehensive assessment of the plan.

The revision of the ATC 2008-2012 Strategic Plan served as a catalyst for the QEP development. Key internal and external stakeholders provided input into the strategic planning and QEP development processes. The input of stakeholders during these processes led to the creation of an ATC Steering Committee, a core group of individuals charged with leading the efforts to complete the QEP. Information gathered through a review of relevant literature, ATC statistical data, ATC survey results and ATC focus group findings assisted the committee in identifying topics vital to the long-term improvement of student learning at the college. Continued discussions among internal and external stakeholders led to a specific QEP topic, *Improving Reading Comprehension*. These discussions also led to the identification of specific test groups, medical assisting and practical nursing students, for which interventions would be provided to improve student learning relative to reading comprehension. Subsequently, the QEP project was entitled *The Reading Oasis-Reading for Student Success*.

The steering committee theorizes that the interventions provided to the test groups should lead to the achievement of two general desired outcomes related to reading comprehension and one specific desired outcome (per test group) related to passage rates on industry-recognized certification/licensure exams. Prior to developing interventions that would assist the college in achieving these desired outcomes, consideration was given to best practices discovered during the review of the literature. Based on the desired outcomes the college wants to achieve and a review of best practices, a number of actions to be implemented are outlined. These actions begin with the establishment of an organizational unit, the Reading Oasis Center of Excellence. This new unit is charged with coordination of the QEP, includes the activities to be implemented by this unit, and concludes with the measurement of results used to modify current interventions for future implementation. A five-year timeline provides the organizational unit a roadmap outlining the detailed activities that must be accomplished to achieve the desired results.

To maintain focus on student learning, the coordinator of the Reading Oasis Center of Excellence will report directly to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. A five-year budget averaging slightly over \$200,000 annually has been allocated to this unit. The center coordinator is charged with management of the human and financial resources itemized in the budget as well as the comprehensive evaluation of the QEP. The center will be located in ATC's existing Learning Support Center.