



# North Greenville University

## Quality Enhancement Plan: *Becoming a Difference Maker* Executive Summary

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North Greenville University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is centered on the First Year Experience developed within these guidelines: "The University will institute a comprehensive plan for a total freshman first year experience that will reinforce the university's mission of 'providing a quality education in a biblically sound, Christ-centered environment'. The plan will include a First Year experience course that is Christian worldview oriented and academic discipline specific." The theme *Becoming a Difference Maker* was selected. *Becoming a Difference Maker* includes a mission statement, three program goals and four student learner outcomes.

### MISSION

The mission of this five-year effort is to provide a holistic approach to the first year experience that encourages students to develop spiritually, academically, and socially by means of creative, engaging, and relevant experiences through the framework *Becoming a Difference Maker* within the context of a Christian worldview.

### PROGRAM GOALS

The purpose of the program goals is to identify and clarify the focus of the first year experience. The three goals will introduce students to the *Becoming a Difference Maker* theme, infuse its principles into the student's life, and provide linked experiences between the students and the University.

### LEARNER OUTCOMES

The four student learner outcomes will enable the student to know the *Becoming a Difference Maker* concept, demonstrate and utilize the *Becoming a Difference Maker* framework throughout campus life and their individual lives, and understand the University's academic and campus life policies and regulations.

The University will seek to accomplish these goals and outcomes through a variety of means: reading, writing assignments, seminars, participation in discussion groups, and involvement in a variety of activities that promote the framework.

### ASSESSMENT AIMS

Seven assessments will be incorporated for the program goals and learner outcome strategies. The assessment plan of the first year experience program *Becoming a Difference Maker* aims to:

1. determine the extent and success of the initial introduction of the framework to students.
2. determine the extent to which students perceive themselves as being prepared to approach *Becoming a Difference Maker*.
3. analyze approaches to faculty and staff training for the total first year experience.
4. determine the usage and effectiveness of the development of a common language designed to articulate the framework in a unified, comprehensive manner for consistency in instruction.
5. evaluate the *Link*<sup>1</sup> process to determine the extent of the application of the framework in the total higher education experience.
6. evaluate student commitment to the framework as reflected in the first year course project.
7. formulate and disseminate learner outcome assessment results.

Implementing *Becoming a Difference Maker* directly involves the participation of a broad cross-section of the University community. A variety of tools and instruments will be utilized for this purpose, some from outside sources and others designed by the University faculty and staff. The First Year Experience Director and the First Year Experience faculty committee will be responsible for ensuring that assessment results are analyzed on an annual basis to enhance the program's effectiveness.

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<sup>1</sup> *Link* is the first year orientation program at North Greenville University.