



## **Adventures in Writing: I Came. I WROTE. I Conquered!** **The Quality Enhancement Plan at Shaw University**

*Adventures in Writing*, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Shaw University, is designed to improve student writing competencies. The plan addresses a need for writing development documented by institutional data and articulated by University constituents. Enhancing writing skills fits within the Shaw University (2008) Mission “to advance knowledge, facilitate student learning and achievement, to enhance the spiritual and ethical values of its students, and to transform a diverse community of learners into future global leaders.”

Based on feedback from faculty members, staff, and students, as well as research into best practices, the QEP Committee recommended a three-pronged approach:

- Establish a writing center for one-on-one support. Writing Center tutoring sessions will be available for all students, with online sessions offered for students who are not on the main campus. Professional and Peer Tutors will engage students in purposeful revision and the development of transferrable writing skills.
- Enhance the English 110 course, a basic writing skills course, by integrating a computer-enhanced Writing Lab. Students in this course will meet in the Lab once each week to work in small tutor-led groups for individualized attention and to practice with skills introduced in class.
- Provide faculty development in writing instruction and assessment. Faculty who teach ENG 110, and others utilizing writing in their courses, will take advantage of the faculty development and incorporate best practices throughout the University.

These three components work together to enhance and support writing skill development for all students. The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for *Adventures in Writing* represent five main aspects of effective writing:

1. students will develop a controlling idea appropriate for purpose,
2. students will use patterns of development appropriate for purpose,
3. students will use an academic style appropriate for audience,
4. students will demonstrate standard use of grammar and mechanics, and
5. students will exhibit thoughtful, significant revision between drafts.

Assessment of the SLOs through rubrics, surveys, and standardized tests will allow Shaw University to analyze the effectiveness of the QEP and make alterations in the plan that will more effectively guide students in becoming more competent writers.