

THE QEP NEWS

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QEP TEAMS

Two teams will be needed for the development of NRCC's QEP. Team 1 will be involved in pre-planning activities and narrowing down the scope of topics from which the QEP will be selected. Team 2 will be responsible for defining the plan once a topic has been chosen.

Team 1

**Pat Huber
Teri Moore
Mark Rowh
Fritz Streff**

Team 2

TBA

WHAT IS A QEP?

As part of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) re-accreditation process, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a carefully designed and focused college initiative to improve student learning. The selection of NRCC's QEP topic is an important decision the college will make together as faculty, staff, and students pursue one clear objective: to enhance student learning at our institution.

A QEP is a course of action for institutional improvement that addresses one or more issues contributing to quality enhancement of student learn-

ing. SACS has noted that "student learning is at the heart of the mission of all institutions of higher learning...Developing a QEP as a part of the reaffirmation process is an opportunity and an impetus for the institution to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue or issues the institution considers important to improving student learning." The QEP must emerge from the institution's current planning and evaluation processes and must be compatible with the college's strategic plan. The QEP should not be seen as an "add-

on" but rather it should become an integral part of the institution and its activities. For more information on QEPs, see the SACS [Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation](#).

An effective QEP must be thoroughly focused. While important to the entire institution, it may focus on a specific discipline, group of students, etc.

It must directly address improving student learning. Outcomes such as improving student retention might be a possible benefit, but they should not be the focus of the QEP.

A SPECIAL VISITOR

On August 25, Dr. Rudy Jackson, from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, visited NRCC to provide some direction for tNRCC's compliance audit and for the development of the college's QEP.

While he was here, Mark just couldn't help sharing some of his outrageous stories. Dr. Jackson especially enjoyed the "Poca Dot" story, as evidenced by the photo on the right.



Dr. Rudy Jackson, SACS on hearing Mark Rowh's "Poca" dot story. New River Community College, Dublin Virginia August 25, 2006

