

XAVIER UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

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Quality Enhancement Plan: QEP Director: "Read Today, Lead Tomorrow" Dr. Jason S. Todd (<u>jtodd1@xula.edu</u>)

With the *Read Today, Lead Tomorrow* initiative, Xavier University of Louisiana has chosen to focus its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) on helping students become more active readers and developing a culture of reading on campus. This plan was developed in response to the relevant data showing that a significant portion of Xavier students lack proficiency in essential reading skills, and has involved students, faculty, staff, alumni, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and trustees. *Read Today, Lead Tomorrow* aims to achieve two specific, assessable student learning outcomes: 1) to improve students' strategic reading skills; 2) to help students develop into more engaged readers inside and outside of the classroom.

To improve students' strategic reading skills during their first two years at Xavier, the plan includes activities that target the Developmental Reading Program, faculty development, and academic departments' entry-level courses. To have students develop into more engaged readers, the plan involves students through activities such as participation in literary communities, literary events, community service, and the Freshman Seminar, and through the use of readerfriendly spaces across campus.

Read Today, Lead Tomorrow's activities are tailored to serve as specific means to achieve specific, assessable student learning outcomes that ultimately contribute to the mission of the University of promoting a more just and humane society by preparing students for positions of leadership and service in the global society. Active and engaged reading are critical components of the University's educational imperative to achieve those goals. By implementing *Read Today, Lead Tomorrow*, Xavier hopes to involve and inspire the entire Xavier community in innovative activities that can contribute to attaining the immediate objectives of the plan and its greater purposes.