

ACTION PROJECT #1 COMMITMENT DECLARATION:

IMPROVE LEARNING OUTSIDE GENERAL EDUCATION

Demographic information:

Institution:	Mineral Area College Park Hills, Missouri
Planned Project Kickoff Date:	August 2006
Target Project Completion Date:	May 2009
Actual Project Completion Date:	TBA

A. Title:

Utilize assessment data to evaluate learning outcomes beyond general education.

B. Action project goal:

This action project will implement a pilot program with two departments (one from each of the college divisions: Arts & Sciences and Career Tech) to enable faculty to develop additional strategies to improve assessment of student learning in both pre-requisite courses for transfer degrees and skill-set-training in career and technical programs. Learning outcomes will be measured by use of locally-developed, national, and occupational competency tests at the course level and then at the exiting program level. A systematic, organized approach to data gathering and assessment is essential and will ensure that learning outcomes are congruent with departmental and institutional goals. This project will help the college utilize data in more meaningful ways and assure that faculty and staff thoroughly close the “quality teaching feedback loop”. Learning outcomes will be evaluated in the context of classroom teaching strategies and methods, learning styles and techniques, and measurement functions. This project will help assure that Mineral Area College graduates are either prepared to successfully complete a baccalaureate degree or to have the necessary skills for gaining and holding a job in the workforce.

C. The AQIP category most impacted by this project:

Helping Students Learn

D. Why this project is a priority for the college:

Evaluating outcomes at the department and course levels is the next logical step in the development of a culture of assessment at the College, since a process has been successfully integrated for measuring general education competencies. Assessing student learning achievement in transfer pre-requisite courses and employment training skill-sets is an essential strategy for the teaching and learning process. Assessment and measurement of student learning will assure faculty that students have mastered appropriate knowledge, skills, and competencies and serve as a catalyst for improving instruction. This project will ensure that

Mineral Area College students continue to compete when transferring to a four-year college or university and/or to acquire the necessary skills and abilities to enter the workforce.

E. Organizational areas most affected by/involved in the project:

The project will involve and impact all academic levels of the college.

F. Key organizational process(es) this project is expected to change and improve:

The primary process to be enhanced will be the improvement of the assessment of student learning in specific disciplines by systematic data collection, evaluation of the results and utilization of this information for that purpose.

G. Length of time rationale:

We will need to gather enough data to be significant prior to evaluation of the project. This will require at least two to three years of data.

H. Monitoring project success:

Data from the two pilot projects will be reviewed along with actions taken as a result of the evaluation of student learning data and any effect these actions have on student learning outcomes.

I. Outcome measures indicating success or failure of project as it progresses:

The evaluation of student learning outcomes and the resultant changes or lack of need for changes will indicate the success or failure of the project.

J. Other information:

The departments of Allied Health, Business Administration, and Social Sciences are targeted to participate in this action project.

K. Project leader and contact person:

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