

**EXPANDING EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM
ACTION PROJECT TEAM
2009 ANNUAL UPDATE [SUBMISSION—09/14/2009]**

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[A]. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

Describe concrete achievements: meetings, data gathered and analyzed, plans made or implemented, changes in processes, and measured results. If you haven't made much progress, explain why you think things are moving slower than planned.

The Cooperative Education and Experiential Learning AQIP Action Project Team presented its recommendations to the President and Executive Cabinet (EC) in November of 2008. The recommendations were approved in early 2009. EC then spent considerable time discussing how the Team's recommendations would be enacted and how they would fit into the structure of the College. The experiential education function described by the Team will be part of Academic Affairs:

- The Vice President for Academic Affairs has expanded the role of Executive Dean of Professional Development to include the responsibilities recommended by this Team. The new position is called Executive Dean of Professional Development and Experiential Education.
- An Interim Executive Dean of Professional Development and Experiential Education with experience and background in training, program development and experiential learning has been hired.
- The Vice President and Interim Executive Dean are exploring the possibility of a faculty reassigned position for Experiential Education that is similar in scope and responsibility to the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Experiential Education will be officially retired as an AQIP Action Project during the Fall 2009 semester. [185 words]

[B]. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

AQIP wants Information about motivation and communication: how you kept this Project on the institution's priority list, how you maintained general awareness of the importance and progress of the Project, and how you kept those working on it directly active and motivated.

Due to the nature and timing of these deliberations, little was done to communicate with the College community about the status of the project during the 2008-2009 academic year.

- In April 2009 the Vice President for Academic Affairs informed faculty that the action proposed by Experiential Education Team would be part of the Center for Teaching and Learning and encouraged faculty interested in working on the initiative to contact her.

- At the kick-off of the Fall 2009 semester, the Vice President again reviewed the plans regarding Experiential Education and introduced the Interim Executive Dean. She also encouraged interested faculty members to consider the possibility of working in the reassigned position that will coordinate the experiential and cooperative education efforts.
- Potential candidates among the faculty are being considered for the reassigned position; alternatives to a reassignment are also being considered, including additional staffing solutions. [146 words]

[C]. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

Be specific about the next critical steps you are planning to move the Action Project ahead. If your planning is vague or there is no planning at this point, explain why.

The Interim Executive Dean of Professional Development and Experiential Learning has reviewed the recommendations of the Team and will begin to formulate plans to implement the Team's recommendations. Two faculty members have been interviewed to determine their interest and ability to advance experiential learning initiatives, build upon the current initiatives, develop partnerships within the community and participate in conferences where best practices are being shared. [65 words]

[D]. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

Share practices (or processes, policies, procedures, or initiatives) that could be adopted or adapted at other institutions. AQIP is most interested in practices that would give value (better educational services, cost-savings, improved morale, more satisfied stakeholders, etc.) to another institution if they copied your innovation. If you believe that your work on this Project has little or no value for other institutions, explain why.

Because the past year was spent formulating and considering specific recommendations for the President and Executive Cabinet, the Team has no effective practices to offer as a result of its work this year. [34 words]

[E]. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

This is an opportunity to get constructive, actionable feedback and advice from our review process. Use this question to specify where your blocks, gaps, sticking points, or problems are. If you have already fashioned strategies to deal with any challenge you face, share both the challenge and your strategy for meeting it.

A primary challenge will be to effectively manage Step 6 (Monitor Results) and Step 7 (Adjust, Standardize, Plan Further) of the CQI process. These tasks have been transferred from the Team to the Interim Executive Director and the processes put in place to create and grow experiential education experiences in credit and non-credit curriculum at MCC.

A long-range challenge is to make adjustments in the college culture based on past practices and adjusting the culture to a broader understanding of the scope of experiential learning to create a deeper breadth and range of learning experiences that fall under the heading of experiential learning. Our strategy is to identify a faculty member with an understanding and/or experience creating an experiential, active learning environment. [122 words]

SUBMITTED