



## Mott Community College Cooperative & Experiential Education

### AQIP Action Project Database Review

The following are excerpts from action projects found in the [AQIP Action Project Directory](#). The full project documents are also available.

<<http://www.aqip.org>>

- Of the 887 project listed in the database, 8 projects contain some form of experiential, service, or co-op component
- These 9 projects fall into the following AQIP Categories (MCC's is *Helping Students Learn*):
  - 4 in Helping Students Learn
  - 3 in Building Collaborative Relationships
  - 2 in Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs
- The Institutions, dates submitted, and short title are:
  - **Mott Community College, MI** – 8/14/2006  
<http://www.mcc.edu/>; [http://www.mcc.edu/aqip/aqip\\_actproj\\_experedu.shtml](http://www.mcc.edu/aqip/aqip_actproj_experedu.shtml)  
*Expanding Experiential Education in the curriculum*
  - **Mid State Technical College, WI** – 5/27/2003  
<http://www.mstc.edu/>  
*Develop processes for collaboration with business and public service organizations*
  - **Northern Michigan University, MI** – 3/1/2006  
<http://www.nmu.edu/>; <http://www.nmu.edu/superioledge/>  
*Superior Edge (Academic Service Learning and Community Involvement)*
  - **Riverland Community College, MN** – 3/6/2003  
<http://www.riverland.edu/>  
*Improve communications with external stakeholders*
  - **Lakeshore Technical College, WI** – 8/22/2005  
<http://www.gotoltc.edu/>  
*Work Ready – Every Student has the Skills Needed to get a Job*
  - **Johnson County Community College, KS** – 9/20/2004  
<http://www.jccc.edu/>  
*Promote civic/community engagement*
  - **University of Nebraska, NE** – 9/14/2005  
<http://www.unomaha.edu/>  
*Civic Participation Project*
  - **College of Saint Mary, NE** – 3/15/2007  
<http://www.csm.edu/>  
*Student Engagement*
  - **Montcalm Community College, MI** – 1/12/2005  
<http://www.montcalm.edu/>  
*Improving System for Developing Programs and Services Effecting Life/Work Transition*

**Institution:** Charles Stewart Mott Community College

**Submitted:** 2006-08-14

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Expanding Experiential Education in the curriculum

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

The goal of this project is that cooperative education and other experiential learning opportunities be expanded in all areas of the college curriculum.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

There is an increasing need for students to engage in reality-based education working with mentors on real-world application of the concepts they learn in classes. Combining classroom and world-of-work learning will help our students and graduates to be more competitive in a tight labor market. This will also increase the visibility of MCC students, faculty and our programs to the community.

In addition, Jobs for the Future and the National Council on Workforce Education have identified four high leverage strategies to increase access and success: 1) Integrated institutional services 2) Accelerated learning 3) Labor Market payoff 4) Comprehensive supports. Besides being advantageous for any student, this project links very nicely to developmental curricular initiatives and service learning that are already in place at MCC.

**G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):**

- Research of other Community Colleges
- Research and/or consultation with MCC faculty already engaged in experiential learning, service learning, community development, etc.
- Identify motivating factors for employers, agencies and organizations
- Develop a common understanding of key terms and concepts (i.e. "service learning," co-op," "experiential," "intern," "extern," "credit for prior learning," "credit for life experience," "field experience," etc.)

**Institution:** Mid-State Technical College

**Submitted:** 2003-05-27

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Develop processes for collaboration with business and public service organizations

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) has programs that maintain excellent working relationships with business, industry, and public service organizations. Given MSTC's mission and vision, it is clear that the best practices in the development of collaborative relationships should be adopted across the college. The purpose of this action project is to identify, implement, and test exemplary processes for collaboration between MSTC programs and business, industry, and public service organizations.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Building Collaborative Relationships

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

The focus of this action project is on the improvement of the collaboration between MSTC staff and business and government agencies in and near the MSTC district. Beyond record keeping and following general State of Wisconsin guidelines, MSTC lacks a consistent strategy for instructional units for relating to business and public service organizations. This situation has resulted in various units of the college inventing their own approaches to collaboration. The project will address a demonstrated need for support of these collaboration efforts with the identification of best practices to provide guidance to MSTC staff.

**J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):**

To identify the best practices in collaborative relationships by examining the most successful examples at MSTC and by reviewing the related professional literature. To complete a description of a set of processes and to be used to develop strong collaborative relationship between technical college educators and members of business, industry, and government and the desired outcomes of such a relationship. To implement and test the identified processes to discover if the recommended strategies result in improved collaboration between technical college educators and members of business, industry, and government.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-14

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

In the previous year, the team completed a final review of the design of the Access database and of the Excel spreadsheet used to compile a listing of the partnerships that MSTC maintains with external organizations. Effort for the current year revolved around collecting data to populate the database. The database has been partially populated, with 346 records in the external collaboration database.

The team also developed a series of questions designed to be used to glean data about successful partnerships at other organizations. The information gathered by the questions would help define the profile of an "ideal" partnership. Data collection has not yet begun.

In October 2006, the team leads will present a session entitled: "Documenting and Data: Technical College Partnerships" at the Wisconsin Technical College System's Fall Conference. The conference, called "Learning and Improving: The Human Side of Data," brings together staff from across the technical college system to share best practices. The presentation will provide information on the processes used to document and categorize the various collaborative relationships that support the mission of Mid-State Technical College. This initial exploration and documentation is an essential first step in the development of a systematic understanding of the strategic importance of collaboration in a two-year, public technical college.

The activities of this team have become a part of the college culture over the past three years. The team will be retired as soon as a replacement action project is rolled out based on the feedback from the college's systems portfolio, which was submitted in June 2006.

**Institution:** Northern Michigan University

**Submitted:** 2006-03-01

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Superior Edge (Academic Service Learning and Community Involvement)

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

The purpose of this Action Project is to research, discuss and make recommendations for a value-added initiative (Superior Edge Program) comprised of several current experiences including, but not limited to, leadership, volunteering, membership in student organizations, academic service-learning, and civic engagement.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

This action project reflects some of the early Provocative Propositions generated at campus conversation day. There is a desire for more external student projects, including internships, collaborations with local business, community involvement and service learning. The proposed program was presented at a University-wide forum and to numerous committees (President's Council, Academic Cabinet, Academic Senate, Deans and Department Heads, Student Services, International Task Force, and First-Year Experience).

**J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):**

The Superior Edge originally began as a Presidential Initiative, but momentum and interest in this innovative program, plus the number of initial Provocative Propositions that expressed interest in service learning and internships, led us to declare this as a new Action Project. In addition, we solicited feedback from another AQIP institution, and the response was very favorable.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-14

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

Superior Edge is a unique new program at Northern Michigan University that provides students with the opportunity to combine in- and out-of-the-classroom experiences in a way that will provide them with an "edge" with employers or graduate school admissions counselors. Superior Edge was developed as a university-wide initiative by a committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students. Superior Edge develops citizen-leaders for the 21st century. This program has been an action project for only one year, so we are still working on it.

**Institution:** Riverland Community College

**Submitted:** 2003-03-06

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Improve communications with external stakeholders

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

In order to develop better internships, employment possibilities, and credit transfer, the College must communicate and build strong relationships with places of employment and other educational institutions.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Building Collaborative Relationships

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

Results of a climate survey, Constellation Index, an All-College Conversation Day, and two small forums at each of our three sites, identified external communications as a priority for discussion and change. In addition, recent career/technical program difficulties have reinvigorated the related Advisory committees to request greater effort on the part of the College to assist in developing stronger relations with companies who hire our graduates. The Academic Affairs Strategic Plan includes initiatives for articulations and expanded discussions with our district high schools.

**J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):**

A core group of college employees, students and other external stakeholders will form a team to address improving external communications by the end of February 2003. The team will select co-leaders who will guide, direct and lead the team. This team will expand to include individuals who express interest in participating and to meet the needs of the team. The team will determine:

- what evidence of successful external communications exist now.
- what gaps exist in successful communications and why.

The team will then develop specific activities and projects to address the gaps and improve communications with our external stakeholders. These activities and projects will be driven by data, and will detail specific goals to accomplish and outcomes to be reached. The first activity the team will undertake is creating a map of our current external stakeholders cross-referenced with all the processes and methods that the college currently uses to communicate and connect with these groups of stakeholders. A report will be issued by the end of May 2003 with the action projects named, outcomes, timelines, and measurement tools determined. The team will prioritize the short and long term actions-for-improvement.

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Last Action Project Update: 2005-09-13

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

The project team found that three different areas of communication needed to be improved: Industry, Local Government, and Students.

**Institution:** Lakeshore Technical College

**Submitted:** 2005-08-22

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Work Ready – Every Student has the Skills Needed to get a Job

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

Develop and implement a process to assess the college's core competencies (core abilities) in all one- and two-year programs. Increase the number of programs that provide work experience opportunities to students in the form of internships, clinicals, and other similar experiences. Incorporate international education activities into each one- and two-year program.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

The Systems Appraisal Feedback Report identified this area as an opportunity for improvement. While LTC received praise for the process of developing the core abilities, the college lacks a reliable process for measuring student success in this area. The college also lacks the ability to separate the data for the various student groups. A recent focus group with employers identified “work ready” skills that area employees are lacking. LTC’s Employer Survey, which is administered to employers of recent graduates, also revealed the need for improvement in these skills.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-12

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

- (1) LTC analyzed programs of at least 60 credits in length to determine how many included all core abilities in the program; 65% include all core abilities.
- (2) LTC reviewed the core abilities and indicators; several indicators were added and/or revised.
- (3) LTC analyzed all programs to determine how many require or encourage students to participate in an internship or other on-the-job experience; 80% of associate degree and 50% of technical diploma programs require or encourage on-the-job experience.

**Institution:** Johnson County Community College

**Submitted:** 2004-09-20

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Promote civic/community engagement.

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

The goal of this Action Project is to promote and increase student civic/community engagement.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Building Collaborative Relationships

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

JCCC's commitment to community as identified through the Strategic Planning Process and the Kansas Award for Excellence led to the selection of this action project to promote civic/community engagement.

**G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):**

JCCC will establish a baseline for students who graduate with Civic Honors. Service Learning students will also establish a baseline number for future goals. JCCC will participate in a survey for Service Learning.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-13

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

JCCC awarded the distinction of "Graduation with Civic Honors" to some members of the second graduating class this year. In recent years, JCCC has increased its focus on civic responsibility and civic engagement. This focus has manifested itself in several ways, including serving as one of six major goals in the college strategic plan and identification as one of the action projects as a component of the college's Academic Quality Improvement Process (AQIP) for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. One component of this important initiative has been the establishment of an enhanced set of graduation requirements leading to the "Graduate with Civic Honors" designation.

**Institution:** University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Submitted:** 2005-09-14

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Civic Participation Project

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

The goal of the Civic Participation Project is to provide intellectual and experiential opportunities for civic engagement, in the expectation of producing graduates with strong public awareness and a commitment to building and sustaining democracy through meaningful action in local, national, and international venues.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Helping Students Learn

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

This mission of promoting awareness and public debate on pressing civic issues is consistent with our strategic plan and urban public mission. Surveys from the HERI (Higher Education Research Institute) indicate that participation in service during college yields widespread benefits to students and that student involvement during college plays a key role in predicting post-college civic engagement. Additionally, civic engagement is figuring more prominently in assessment issues and is featured in our university electronic portfolios.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-14

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

This Action Project, the Civic Participation Project (CPP), complements our university participation in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) American Democracy Project. Our project goal has been to provide intellectual and experiential opportunities for student civic engagement.

- a) We created an 8-person Civic Participation Project action team that includes representatives from several sectors of the university – academic and co-curricular, which met as a full group twice during the year.
- b) Our major achievement was to design and implement a series of faculty minigrants to fund projects that fulfill the goal of promoting student civic engagement. The idea was that faculty would use the small amounts of money to launch small or pilot projects and/or leverage additional monies from other sources for larger projects.
  - The specifics of the funding opportunities were designed in response to data from our first round of pilot minigrants (2005-05), where we learned (contrary to our expectations) that faculty would prefer to use the money for project expenses rather than course buyout, so the grants could be made in smaller increments (up to \$1500, rather than the \$2200 we initially offered). Eight minigrants were funded at a total cost of \$11,236.
  - We also offered travel grants (up to \$650) for faculty to present civic engagement-related research or projects at academic conferences. Six travel grants were funded at a total cost of \$3900.

**C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.**

a) The CPP has not had an institutional “home” up until this point. For efficiency and consolidation, we’ve folded the Civic Participation Project into our Service-Learning Academy where there will be more staff and student support. The Service-Learning Academy is under the direction of CPP Action Team member Paul Sather.

**Institution:** College of Saint Mary

**Submitted:** 2007-03-15

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Student Engagement

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

Develop a working definition of “student engagement opportunities”. Compile a list of all current student engagement opportunities, outside of direct teaching. Create a database to evaluate the effectiveness of current opportunities. Evaluate what is currently offered in terms of student participation and outcomes. Examine the results of the NSSE survey given to CSM degree-seeking, undergraduate students in the spring of 2007. Explore student engagement opportunities at other similar institutions. Make recommendations, a rationale, and an assessment plan for enhancement or expansion of what we offer at CSM.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

The Retention Leadership Council (RLC) is concerned about the dip in retention of first-time, full-time (FTFT) students. Sixty-two percent of the FTFT student who entered CSM in the fall of 2005 were enrolled in the fall of 2006. That is lower than the 71% average over the prior three years. In addition, only 44% of the FTFT students who entered CSM in the fall of 2001 graduated within 5 years. That is the lowest graduation rate in the prior three years. In order to retain and graduate our students, we need to examine and improve how they are connected to CSM while they are here. The Center for Postsecondary Research published a report in January of 2007 that explored what they termed a “promising line of inquiry showing links between student engagement in educationally purposeful activities, achievement, persistence and graduation”. For the first time, CSM students will be asked this spring to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) which will allow us to establish a baseline for self-reported student engagement (how our students spend their time). The students at the member institutions in the Women’s College Coalition who have participated in the NSSE survey in past years report higher levels of engagement than women who attend co-educational institutions in a number of significant areas. It is time for CSM to understand, track, and improve student engagement as a strategy to improve overall student satisfaction with their educational experience, as well as their retention and rates.

**I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:**

The college will have a clear definition of engagement as well as a current offerings database. This database will be utilized as a retention tool in an effort to preserve students through engagement opportunities.

**Institution:** Montcalm Community College

**Submitted:** 2005-01-12

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**A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:**

Improving System for Developing Programs and Services Effecting Life/Work Transition

**B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:**

Because of job losses in the local manufacturing economy, Montcalm Community College will be challenged by the need to provide meaningful programs and services to large numbers of dislocated workers. In order to meet this challenge, the College will improve its system for developing programs and services which facilitate positive work/life transitions.

By accomplishing this project, Montcalm Community College will:

Improve knowledge and understanding of dislocated workers

Determine dislocated workers' specific educational needs

Utilize current programming and create new programming to meet those needs.

**C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:**

Primary Category: Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

**D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:**

The impetus for this project has formed due to the recent announcements of large layoffs in the local manufacturing sector, significant enrollment increases and the desire to align our resources in an efficient manner. Furthermore, our AQIP Constellation Survey identified understanding students' and other stakeholders' needs as an area of great opportunity.

Most immediately, dislocated workers will need retraining in order to make timely, positive career changes. We need to know the mindsets, abilities, interests, and overall goals of these workers in order to develop needed educational resources and in order to improve processes to better serve this group. We also need to put these improvements, both educational and process, into place in an effective way.

**J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):**

One: Within six months we will have developed a needs assessment plan.

Within nine months we will have conducted a needs assessment. Two: Within one year we will have conducted an existing program audit, prioritized needs in terms of solutions, and created an access point for existing and new programs. Three: Within two years we will have created new programming to meet worker needs.

Within two years we will have created a workforce development center.

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Last Action Project Update: 2006-09-13

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

In the past two years, local job loss from manufacturing plant closings in our service region totals 4,023 jobs. 3,003 were from one plant shutdown alone. To put this number in perspective, the population of Montcalm County is 60,000. The County now has the highest unemployment rate of any in Michigan (15%). Most dislocated workers are 40-50 years old and had worked for one employer for most of their adult lives. Montcalm Community College fall 2006 enrollment is 2,450. Dislocated workers currently enrolled at MCC number 350.