

# Jacksonville State University



## **SACS Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Request for Proposals**

*For the purpose of funding innovative, collaborative strategies to assess emerging JSU issues based on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and the mission of the institution* (The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, 2010. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, p.19).

### **Sponsored by:**

*The Office of the President  
JSU SACS Leadership Committee*

## **2011 Request for Proposals**

**Publication Date: August 29, 2011**

**Proposal Deadline: March 15, 2012**

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*Whoever ceases to be a student has never been a student.*  
**George Iles**, author

*We learn by example and by direct experience because there are real limits to the adequacy of verbal instruction.*  
**Malcolm Gladwell**, Blink: The Power of Thinking without Thinking, 2005

*What is important is to keep learning, to enjoy challenge, and to tolerate ambiguity. In the end there are no certain answers.*  
**Martina Horner**, President of Radcliffe College

*Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival.*  
**W. Edwards Deming**, father of post-war Japanese industrial revival, statistician, and expert on quality improvement

*The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.*  
**Steve Jobs**, CEO of Apple

*The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.*  
**Alvin Toffler**, American writer and futurist, known for his works discussing the digital revolution

*The analysis of data will not by itself produce new ideas.*  
**Edward de Bono**, prolific writer on the subject of thinking

## Overview of the JSU QEP Proposal Process

### Rationale

Jacksonville State University will participate in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaffirmation process to conclude in spring 2014. SACS reaffirmation will result in the University's regional accreditation. Part of the requirement of SACS accreditation is the development of a university-wide assessment plan, called the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), that once approved will be implemented the following five years (2015-2020).

SACS requires that the QEP development process include "an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focused on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution" (The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, 2010. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, p.19).

SACS also requires that the QEP:

Demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP;

Includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and

Identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement

(The Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement, 2010. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges, p.25).

### Background

Jacksonville State University is in the process of implementing a five-year Strategic Plan beginning in academic years 2011-16 that is grounded in the university's Red Balloon Initiative. JSU's Red Balloon Initiative is focused on the learning centered university and is grounded in theory and methodologies that support learning in environments that produce higher order thinking, problem-solving skills and student success.

It is expected that all responses to this RFP will:

- Be grounded in theory that encourages student success in an environment that is challenging and engaging;
- Respond to current JSU assessment results as presented on the University website and in Tableau Server;
- Respond to the University's vision, mission, core values, definition of the learning centered campus and 2011-16 Strategic Plan; and
- Provide a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to addressing emerging issues at JSU.

	<p>Information that support JSU’s conceptual and theoretical framework for the learning-centered university can be found at two websites. The Red Balloon website, <a href="http://www.jsu.edu/redballoon/index.html">http://www.jsu.edu/redballoon/index.html</a>, provides articles related to the learning centered university and JSU’s conceptual framework. The SACS QEP Resources website, <a href="https://jsu.compliance-assist.com/Accreditation/index.aspx">https://jsu.compliance-assist.com/Accreditation/index.aspx</a> provides links to SACS principles, QEP requirements and sample JSU assessment data. Additional data is available through Tableau Server. Contact the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment at 8144 for user name, password and Tableau support.</p> <p>The University’s 2011-16 Strategic Plan is available at <a href="http://www.jsu.edu/president/strategic_planning.html">http://www.jsu.edu/president/strategic_planning.html</a>.</p> <p>JSU’s project management and collaborative models can be found at <a href="http://www.jsu.edu/oira/projectmanagement/index.html">http://www.jsu.edu/oira/projectmanagement/index.html</a>.</p>
<p><b>Eligible Applicants</b></p>	<p><b>Eligible Applicants</b>  Eligible applicants include faculty and staff at Jacksonville State University. Collaborative teams are highly recommended. One team leader should be identified. The applicant team members will serve as the QEP Leadership Team, responsible for writing the QEP plan, coordinating with JSU administrators, and implementing the five-year plan, once approved.</p>
<p><b>Evaluation Criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Evaluation Criteria</b>  The evaluation criteria below will be used to determine the proposal selected as the QEP topic. It is possible that more than one proposal will be selected. In this case, the JSU Community will be asked to select the topic that they feel best supports the University and its mission.</p> <p><b>Background and Need (25 pts)</b>  Based on JSU assessment data and other data, as needed, provide justification for the need for this topic and project. Provide cited references to JSU assessment data and any national, state, or other published research references. Build an argument as to the benefit of focusing on this topic at JSU.</p> <p><b>Approach (30 pts)</b>  State recommended QEP goals and objectives based on the topic and relate them to the University mission, vision, core values and strategies in the Strategic Plan 2011-16. Provide an implementation plan that identifies major tasks necessary for QEP implementation. Include a timeline, discussion of the structure of the project (where in the organization will it reside?), and processes necessary for</p>

	<p>implementation, including lines of communication.</p> <p><b>Key Personnel (15pts)</b> Describe the personnel needed to ensure implementation of the QEP. Describe responsibilities for each key person identified. Provide bios for each key person that links their experience and skills to the QEP topic and/or responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Evaluation Plan (15 pts)</b> Describe how you would evaluate the effectiveness of the Quality Enhancement project that you are proposing once it is implemented. Include student learning outcomes and project outcomes.</p> <p><b>Budget (15 pts)</b> Describe the budget requirements for implementation of the QEP over a five year period, not to exceed \$250,000 a year.</p> <p><b>Appendices</b> Include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Letters of Support from faculty, students, deans and others involved in the project, if implemented.</li> <li>2. Curriculum vitas of Key Personnel.</li> <li>3. Examples of measurement tools, if available.</li> </ol> <p><b>Proposal Review Team-</b> Dr. William A. Meehan, Dr. Rebecca Turner, Mr. Clint Carlson, Mr. Vinson Houston, Dr. Charles Lewis, and Dr. Louise Clark</p>																		
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<p><b>Submission Guidelines</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 page limitation, not including appendices.</li> <li>• Use 1 inch margins and 10 – 12 pt type.</li> <li>• Submit a .pdf copy of the proposal to <a href="mailto:oir@jsu.edu">oir@jsu.edu</a> by 4:30pm Thursday, March 15, 2012.</li> </ul>																		