

THE RIPPLE EFFECT DISPATCH

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF JSRCC'S QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN.

EARLY WARNING SYSTEM PILOT – COMING SPRING 2011

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Attention Distance Learning faculty! Help the QEP team pilot the Blackboard Early Warning System (EWS) in distance learning classes this spring. To be part of the spring pilot, simply complete a 10-minute, online training module for the Early Warning System (TEAC 301) through the JSRCC Knowledge Center. The module highlights the pedagogical reasons for integrating the EWS in distance learning classes and provides a technical demonstration for the integration. Plus, it assesses your learning. **Contact Ghazala Hashmi by December 3 if you are interested in participating in the pilot.**

Recognizing that students make critical decisions about their academic work in the first few weeks of a semester, the EWS alerts instructors about students who may be experiencing difficulty. As an early- and mid-semester intervention tool, the EWS allows instructors to guide students more effectively to the support resources that they may need. The pilot assessment will also measure the impact that heightened instructor contact has upon student retention and success in distance learning classes.



INCLUDING SMARTERMEASURE IN YOUR DL COURSES

REQUESTING STUDENT SMARTERMEASURE REPORTS

Do you have students who have completed SmarterMeasure in previous semesters? You can request their reports by emailing rippleeffect@reynolds.edu.

Nearly 2,300 students have completed the SmarterMeasure assessment since Summer 2010. Are you teaching Distance Learning classes in Spring 2011? Please help us by integrating SmarterMeasure into your syllabi and class assignments for your DL courses.



DL Instructors are encouraged either 1) to build SmarterMeasure into a first-week, introductory assignment for students, or 2) to provide students with information about SmarterMeasure in the course Blackboard site. For assistance in creating a first-week assignment, please contact Ghazala Hashmi.

[Click here](#) for recommended wording for your announcement about SmarterMeasure. Please modify it according to your specific assignment needs.



FOSTER TAKES ON ASSISTANT COORDINATOR ROLE

Meg Buchanan Foster joined the QEP team this October as the QEP assistant coordinator. She leads QEP initiatives in the area of student services as they relate to the QEP (SmarterMeasure, student orientation to distance learning, and student support for distance learners). Meg formerly served JSRCC as the Counselor for First-Year Initiatives where she coordinated SOAR, the College's student orientation program. Prior to working at Reynolds, Meg was the assistant dean of admissions at Salem College and Virginia Wesleyan

College where she developed a passion for student success and retention.

Meg has a M.A. from the University of Maryland and B.A. from the University of Virginia.



Meg Buchanan Foster, formerly the College's Counselor for First Year Initiatives, will now serve at the Assistant Coordinator for QEP.

QEP TEAM PRESENTS THE RIPPLE EFFECT

QEP Team members have recently presented and shared information about *The Ripple Effect* at a variety of conferences:

☀ Jackie Bourque, Marian Macbeth, and Ghazala Hashmi presented at the October VCCS DL Peer Group meeting on "Partnering Information: Using Institutional Research to Develop Faculty Training in Distance Learning."

☀ Ghazala Hashmi presented at the October VCCS English Peer Group meeting on "Training Faculty in Course Design to Engage Learners in Written Communication."

☀ Jackie Bourque, Hong Wu, Stephen Brandon, and Ghazala Hashmi presented at the November Virginia Assessment Group Conference on "Assessing Student Learning in Multiple Course Delivery Modes and Contexts: A Model for Course-Embedded Assessment."

☀ Additionally, Meg Foster and Ghazala Hashmi filed a proposal for the Chancellor's Innovation Fund for 2010 - 2011 to help support a proposed program for Peer Academic Leaders (PALs) that will offer extended services and assistance for distance learners.

STAY INFORMED ABOUT THE RIPPLE EFFECT

This publication is the official newsletter of JSRCC's Quality Enhancement Plan, *The Ripple Effect*: Transforming Distance Learning, One Student & One Instructor at a Time. Your comments and questions are welcome. Please contact QEP Coordinator Ghazala Hashmi at (804) 523-5515 or gashmi@reynolds.edu or rippleeffect@reynolds.edu.

Learn more at www.Reynolds.edu/therippleeffect.

How Reynolds is Preparing to Offer You Top Notch Training

Get your most basic questions answered about the JSRCC QEP Faculty Training Program for Distance Learning Instructors—including information on TOP and IDOL courses. [Click here](#) to read the full Issues in Faculty Training Q&A online and learn more about:

- Administrative issues
- Implementation procedures
- Evaluation standards
- Policies and procedures

