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Implementing a QEP in a Distributed University When Memories Are Short and Changes Are Necessary

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**Implementing a QEP in a Distributed
University When Memories Are Short and
Changes Are Necessary**

**Dr. Aaron Clevenger
Kelly Whealan George**
presented at
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University Overview

3 campuses:

- Daytona Beach (~ 4500 UG & 500 grad)
- Prescott (~ 1500 students)
- World Wide (>150 locations, ~ 40 states, S. America, Europe, Asia and Middle East; ~26,000 FTE students)
- Emphasis is aviation & aerospace
- BS, MS and PhD programs
- ~ \$17M in research



Topic: Research

- The University will focus on the research agenda through three strategies
 - championing student participation in research and scholarly activities
 - promoting the University's research agenda
 - incentivizing faculty research and scholarship, and development of instructional tools

Student Learning Outcomes

- define and/or articulate a research problem
 - conduct an appropriate literature search
 - evaluate and integrate interdisciplinary information
- design a course of action to solve a research problem
 - describe an accepted research method and rationale
 - apply existing knowledge to a research problem
- apply ethical principles in research methodologies and in the application of research results
- conduct research independently and/or collaboratively
- reach decisions or conclusions based on the analysis and synthesis of evidence
- communicate research results



Curriculum Draft

- Research Methods 202 created to introduce students to skills required
- 300-400 level courses selected and enhanced with the practicing of research activities
- Capstone experiences will allow student to demonstrate mastery of research skills



Operational Strategies

Curriculum Enhancements

- RSCH 202 Course – eta July 2013
- Curriculum Map - complete
- Assessments (May 2014)
- Enhancement 300-400 level courses

Faculty & Staff Development

- Pedagogy Training Module (self directed)
- Faculty Training Module (directed)
- CTLE activities generated by training modules

Center for Research

- Interactive Website
- Research Tutoring modules
- Research Symposium
- Research Journal (2014)
- Researcher Scholar Award (2016)
- Research grants, travel, other

Results Thus Far

- Biggest area of missed criterion for student achievement was at the Introductory and Practicing levels.
- Faculty have been intent on strengthening curriculum with respect to prerequisite knowledge and research skills



Biggest Challenges

- RSCH 202
 - Prerequisites and course sequencing
- Communication between all research-related activities across the University.
- Offering of research experiences (Discovery Days, student grants, research abroad)



Upcoming Initiatives

- University undergraduate research journal
- Study abroad research experience for 1 RSCH credit hour, co-hosted with DB
- Student funding for presentation at undergraduate research conferences, CUR's research on the hill
- \$\$ for student working on faculty projects

Launch of Research Website!!

- Center for Research
 - Research.erau.edu
- Scholarly Commons from the Hunt Library
 - Commons.erau.edu



Questions / Comments /
Suggestions?

