

## The New Student Experience – MTC’s Quality Enhancement Plan

By Janice Jake

Every ten years, MTC is evaluated by SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the accrediting body for the 11-state region that includes South Carolina. In Fall 2009, MTC is hosting an on-site visit from our appointed SACS committee. Also as part of that reaccreditation process, MTC will begin a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). This plan, the New Student Experience, is designed to promote new student success by connecting students to college resources, developing community, and enhancing learning.

The New Student Experience has three goals: Goal 1. To support new students' connection and engagement with the college community Goal 2. To create student-centered classroom learning communities (CLCs) that foster student success Goal 3. To create inquiry-based faculty learning communities (FLCs) that prepare faculty to implement effective CLCs

To support Goal 1, student engagement and communication, the college will provide an online Pre-Advisement Module that highlights some of the most important information new students need – even before they register for classes. New students will learn: • How to communicate with the college community • How to use MTC Online to find placement scores, grades, schedules, and financial aid status • How to access academic program requirements • About the MTC Honor Code • About the expectations and responsibilities for all members of the MTC community • About the Student Handbook and MTC’s policies on parking and smoking • How to find more information about resources and services of the college The Pre-Advisement Module will be piloted in October 2009.

To support Goal 2, the college has identified entry-level courses to develop as classroom learning communities (CLCs). Each CLC has four goals that will be integrated into the course content and activities. The goals are to: • Connect students with college resources • Develop information and technology literacy • Make learning processes “visible” through the development of metacognitive routines • Promote an academic and professional learning environment. After piloting CLCs in Spring 2010, the college will start a new set of CLCs each fall, beginning Fall 2010.

Finally, to support Goal 3, faculty will participate in inquiry-based faculty learning communities (FLCs) to develop and adapt course materials to meet the goals of the CLCs. The semester before teaching sections of courses that have been designated as CLCs, participating faculty will explore, identify, and develop ways to integrate course content, student learning objectives and outcomes, and classroom success skills. They will also develop strategies for connecting students with college resources. After teaching a CLC course, faculty will share results of their experiences across the college, and help form more faculty inquiry groups.

How can MTC help you reach your academic and career goals? Send us an email and let us know: [mtcstudent@midlandstech.edu](mailto:mtcstudent@midlandstech.edu). Reply between now and the end of September 2009 and be entered in a weekly drawing for a gift certificate courtesy of MTC’s bookstores.

For more information about the New Student Experience, email [mtcstudent@midlandstech.edu](mailto:mtcstudent@midlandstech.edu), or Jan Jake, Director (738-7171, [jakej@midlandstech.edu](mailto:jakej@midlandstech.edu)) or Candace Doyle, Assistant Director (822-7034, [doylec@midlandstech.edu](mailto:doylec@midlandstech.edu))