

# ROLLINS COLLEGE

## Quality Enhancement Plan – Executive Summary

### QEP TOPIC SELECTION

In spring 2004, the Rollins Accreditation Leadership Team (ALT) led meetings of students, faculty, and staff to consider several potential Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topics derived from a two-year strategic planning effort. In all sessions, students expressed a strong desire for a plan to promote responsible citizenship and ethical leadership. Since the purpose of the QEP is to support student learning, the faculty, staff, and administration were persuaded that Rollins should focus its attention on an area perceived by students as a pressing need within our campus community. Moreover, qualitative and quantitative data indicate that Rollins students do not have the same sense of community that other students enjoy at peer and aspirational institutions. The ALT decided to address this issue head-on and seek innovative ways to educate students to be good citizens and leaders at every level—on campus, in the surrounding community, in the nation, and in the world. The Rollins Faculty unanimously endorsed the proposed QEP topic, “education for citizenship and leadership in local and global communities.”

### QEP COMMITTEE AND MISSION

The QEP Committee, composed of faculty, administrators, staff, and students from the College of Arts & Sciences (A&S), the Crummer Graduate School of Business, and the Hamilton Holt School began its work in late spring 2004. Meeting throughout the summer, the committee members have developed the following mission statement, planning overview, and communication plan.

*The mission of the Quality Enhancement Plan is to enhance student learning by developing an institutional culture that embraces integrity, strength of character, respect for others, leadership, and global citizenship.* To take its place among the nation’s finest liberal arts colleges, Rollins must develop, instill, and sustain a stronger sense of identity and institutional culture. Through a broad-based campus dialogue about our strengths and weaknesses, coupled with a series of specific actions to develop and promote the values of *integrity, strength of character, respect for others, leadership, and global citizenship*, we expect to make marked improvements in campus culture. These changes will be reflected in new learning opportunities for students, faculty, administration and staff, resulting in the development of attitudes and behaviors that support an inclusive community. Most important, the academic atmosphere—evident in classroom and co-curricular experiences—will reflect a new sense of commitment to Rollins.

The specific goals and strategies of the QEP will be developed through discussions among all constituencies of the Rollins community in early fall 2004. Together, we will define the desired campus culture and identify a plan of action—including curricular, co-curricular, and other changes—to help create it. A&S, Crummer, and Holt will contribute to the plan by proposing student-learning opportunities centered on citizenship and leadership in local and global communities within the context of each of these programs, and by recommending opportunities for interaction among the programs. Communication methods will include colloquia, meetings, listservs, and an interactive website. With this input, the Rollins QEP Committee, with guidance and support from ALT, will develop the Quality Enhancement Plan to be submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in early 2005.

While meeting the SACS-required elements of focus, institutional capability, assessment, and involvement, Rollins’ multi-year plan will specify short-, medium-, and long-range goals and necessary resources required to achieve learning outcomes and develop a more integrated campus culture. In addition, the plan will present specific strategies and action plans for each year of the plan (beginning with 2005-06), present baseline data upon which improvements will be made, and identify methods of assessing such improvements.

### EXPECTED OUTCOME

As a result of this plan, Rollins expects to see measurable evidence of increased personal responsibility for campus culture; improved satisfaction with campus culture; enhanced student social and academic integration; greater academic achievement; increased student retention and graduation rates; and student learning gains related to citizenship, leadership, and involvement in local and global communities. These improvements will help Rollins realize its vision of becoming one of the nation’s leading colleges, emphasizing academic excellence, responsible citizenship, personal growth, and ethical leadership.