Letter from the Editor

July 1, 2014 marked my one-year anniversary as an employee of Broward College in a newly created position, District Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Ironically, I remember a question asked by one of the SACSCOC onsite visit team members (I’m paraphrasing): What was I thinking to take the position so close to the onsite visit? I couldn’t help but laugh because it was definitely a fair question. If a college hires a QEP director, it is usually after the SACSCOC onsite visit, so Broward College took a risk, but from my vantage point, the risk paid off.

If I haven’t had the chance to “talk your ear off,” my research interest and dissertation topic is the QEP, and prior to coming to BC, I worked on the development of two QEP proposals and consulted on other proposals. When BC’s QEP position became available, I was hesitant about applying because based on my research, too often, the QEP-hype leading up to the SACSCOC onsite visit quickly fades once the QEP is approved and the institutional interest wanes and then reappears as the fifth year approaches for the QEP Impact Report.

However, after reviewing BC’s QEP proposal draft and the interview process, the hesitation dissipated. The proposal draft was a diamond in the rough; it had the essential elements that confirmed a college’s commitment to the QEP’s implementation and success. Moreover, I had never seen so many people on an interview committee, which demonstrated the investment people had in the QEP process.

During this first year, I’ve had the pleasure of working with dynamic faculty, both full-time and part-time, and a core group within the QEP Implementation Committee who have not wavered and have given freely of their time to implement the QEP. Words cannot describe my appreciation for them; they are true *shareholders*—people who are invested and willing to put in the work versus watching from the sidelines.

One of my priorities this upcoming academic year is to create more *shareholders* who understand the power of our QEP. The QEP is at the core of what Broward College values. In April, Dr. Proctor’s Core Values message referenced the commitment the College has “to building a culture in which students will question every possibility.” Furthermore, Dr. Madison’s Core Values message referenced the College establishing strategies to “facilitate student success and excellence”; student success and excellence are at the heart of our QEP. Most recently, Adriana Fazzano challenged us to “try new methods, tactics and strategies that can help our students succeed”; this is exactly what we are doing through the QEP.

The beauty of Broward College’s QEP is that it wasn’t designed to be put in a corner; as a result, if supported institutionally, our QEP can transform the lives of students.

—Barbara June Rodriguez

*Nobody Puts QEP in a Corner: Staying Relevant after Reaffirmation*

Broward College has teamed up with Palm Beach State College to co-present at this year’s SACSCOC annual meeting. The conference theme is *Sounding the Right Notes: Relevance in a Time of Transition*, so “Nobody Puts QEP in a Corner: Staying Relevant after Reaffirmation” is a fitting title. In this session, the presenters will discuss the value of the QEP and how it should go beyond being a “check-box” item for reaffirmation. The session will discuss strategies to ensure the QEP is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the college’s existing structure and initiatives.

To learn more about the QEP, visit [www.broward.edu/qep](http://www.broward.edu/qep) or to ask questions, email qep@broward.edu

Don’t just teach your children to read; teach them to question what they read. Teach them to question EVERYTHING! — George Carlin

Broward College defines critical thinking as a process of evaluating information by questioning and testing assumptions, accepting and rejecting arguments and/or perspectives, and applying reasoning to make informed decisions.