

# RISE to the TOP



## SWTJC

### QEP: Quality Enhancement Plan

The purpose of the SWTJC QEP is to improve the quality of instruction by infusing high-impact educational practices throughout the college curriculum. High impact practices lead to greater student engagement which leads to higher student success rates.



**RISE:**  
Improving critical thinking  
and student success through  
high impact practices.

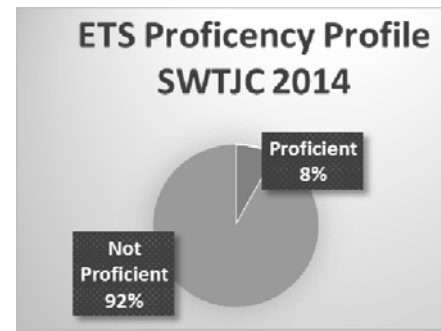
**Resources + Interactions = Student Engagement**

## QEP Focus on Student Learning: Critical Thinking

Critical thinking at Southwest Texas Junior College is defined as a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Research and assessment data show 92 out of 100 SWTJC students are not proficient in critical thinking skills. Results of the CCSSE (Community College Survey of Student Engagement) show SWTJC faculty and student interactions need improvement and that more collaborative learning would help with student engagement.

## QEP Purpose: Improve Quality of Learning

The focus of the SWTJC QEP is to improve the quality of instruction by infusing high-impact educational practices throughout the college curriculum. High impact practices lead to greater student engagement which leads to higher student success rates.



(Source 2014 ETS Proficiency Profile Southwest Texas Junior College)

According to the [Association of American Colleges and Universities](#) (following the work of George Kuh in *High-Impact Educational Practices*), a number of educational experiences are conducive to high-impact learning, including:

- First-year seminars and experiences
- College Success Courses (such as the COLS 0300 and EDUC 1100 - Learning Frameworks)
- Common intellectual experiences (such as the core curriculum)
- Learning communities
- Writing-intensive courses
- Collaborative assignments and projects
- Undergraduate research
- Diversity and global learning in courses or programs that examine "difficult differences"
- Service- or community-based learning
- Internships
- Capstone courses and projects

## QEP Goals and Outcomes: Target Student Success

Improve Student Success during the 2015-2020 time period. Graduation rates, transfer rates, and completion rates will improve as high-impact educational practices become available for students. SWTJC students will rank at the top of representative institutions for proficiency in *Critical Thinking*. and *Student Engagement*.

## Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) 2015 Committee

### QEP 2015 CO CHAIRS

Dr. Mitchel Burchfield  
Randa Faseler Schell

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Ana Lisa Conde (SSC)  
Pat Garcia (HHS)

#### Del Rio

Stephanie Cerna (SSC)

#### Eagle Pass

Claudia Valdez (SSC)  
Gabiella Rosales (FA)

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Diana A. Rodriguez (EP)

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Rita Ortiz (MV)  
Michelle Torres (UV)