

Version 08172012.final

Northwestern Michigan College

Action Project Declaration for: *Enhancing Developmental Education*

Date of Charter: *September 1, 2012*

Target project completion date:	September 1, 2014
Actual project completion date:	
A. Title	Enhancing Developmental Education
B. Goal	The goal of this project is to improve learner success rates in developmental education coursework.
C. AQIP Category	Helping Students Learn
D. Context: Reasons for this project to be done	With the successful completion of our AQIP Enhancing Student Preparation Project and our AQIP Pathways to Completion Project, we are targeting our developmental education curriculum in order to improve success rates. NMC's strategic plan emphasizes the institutional priority of improving persistence and completion rates. In order to improve persistence and completion for all NMC's students, we need to focus improvement efforts in curricular areas demonstrating the lowest course success rates.
E. The organizational areas most affected by or involved in this Action Project.	In cooperation with the Developmental Education Coordinating Committee, the Communications and Science/Math academic units will be charged with designing and implementing appropriate improvement efforts. The Educational Services Instructional Management Team, Curriculum Committee, and Faculty Council may have roles in the approval process.
F. Organizational processes to change or improve.	The focus of this project is to determine and implement strategies to improve learning and success rates in developmental math and developmental English. Working in cooperation with the Learning Experiences AQIP Project that will focus broadly on the student learning experience, this project will focus specifically on how students can become successful in completing their developmental classes so that they are prepared to be full participants in college-level learning.
G. Rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project.	Adequate time is needed to pinpoint impediments to student success while simultaneously implementing improvement actions. Appropriate improvement actions should lead to increased developmental education course completion, course success, and to improved completion rates of developmental education learners. A period of at least two years is necessary to engage in the plan, do, check, and adjust cycle of continuous improvement. The primary metric for success will be course completion rates which are available on a semester basis.
H. Monitoring Plan	The project team is expected to manage the project with an A3 planning tool, consistent with institutional processes of planning. The team will report to the Vice President for Educational Services. Periodically, the team will report its progress to the President's Council and to the college community as fits with the outcomes identified on the A3. The team will

	also report annually on its progress to AQIP.
I. Outcome Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in course completion and success rates • Increase persistence and completion rates • Increase in the success rates of developmental education students moving on to college-level coursework in similar content areas
J. Other information	
K. Project Leader and contact person	Co-chairs: Mark Nelson, Math Faculty in Science and Math Academic Area; Judy Chu, English Faculty in Communications Academic Area
Project scope, constraints, and assumptions	<p>The team will review NMC's current developmental math and developmental English curriculum to determine what innovations can be developed or accelerated to improve student success. The team will evaluate innovations begun last year by the Developmental Education Coordinating Committee to determine their effectiveness and to identify adjustments. Additional pilot projects may be designed to discover worthiness of new approaches. The project will also investigate successful and impactful national practices to determine their applicability at NMC (i.e., Carnegie Foundation courses entitled Quantway and Statway).</p> <p>If the team discovers practices that have more uniform benefits for all our students, these will be submitted to the Learning Experiences AQIP Project for consideration.</p> <p>Developmental Education faces the same financial constraints as the rest of the college but temporary investments in personnel such as release time for team leadership, the expansion of equipment, and the alteration of curriculum are within the project scope to propose.</p>
Team membership	The team will be primarily comprised of the members on the Developmental Education Coordinating Committee: Kari Kahler, Kim Schultz, Megan Ward, Stephen Siciliano, Chris Weber, Ernie East, Deirdre Mahoney, Mike Gillett, Deb Pharo, Mark Nelson, Nancy Gray, Kristen Salathiel, Judy Chu
Preliminary project plan (timetable for what the team will do)	<i>To be determined by the team.</i>