

## **Action Project Declaration**

### **Review and Create a New College Assessment Model for Core Abilities**

Planned project kickoff date:

**Approximately January 16, 2008**

Target completion date: August 2010

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

#### **Academic Implementation of Core Abilities**

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

**In 1988-1989, Moraine Park staff participated in Building Communities Study Groups, which explored the findings of the AACJC Commission on the Future of Community Colleges. The primary recommendation from the Curriculum Study Group was that “Core Abilities be integrated into all program courses.” The result was the initiation of the Core Ability Project at the college. The result of this Project was the development of the college’s Core Abilities; a list of seven abilities that reflect the college’s needs and beliefs about essential, transferable skills to be integrated across the curriculum.**

**During Moraine Park’s 1995 on-site visit by NCA, the evaluation team noted in their report that the college that was inconsistent in the practice of incorporating the core abilities into our curriculum. In the report from the college’s most recent accreditation visit in 2007, the AQIP team indicated:**

*MPTC is encouraged to revisit the college-wide core abilities to determine if those abilities continue to be appropriate for their students and programs. MPTC is encouraged to revisit the strategy for assessing core abilities, currently a comparison of student self-assessment of their performance on the core abilities at entrance and exit of programs. This strategy has too many problems with validity, reliability, and quality of data to provide meaningful results. A more comprehensive and objective assessment of the collegewide core abilities would provide the kind of information to inform the curriculum and instruction.*

**This Action Project’s goal will be to revisit the “Core Abilities” and the strategy for assessing them.**

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

**AQIP Category One: Helping Students Learn**

AQIP Category Two: Accomplishing Other Distinctive Objectives

AQIP Category Three: Understanding Students' and Other Stakeholders' Needs

AQIP Category Four: Valuing People

AQIP Category Five: Leading and Communicating

AQIP Category Six: Supporting Institutional Operations

AQIP Category Seven: Measuring Effectiveness

AQIP Category Eight: Planning Continuous Improvement

AQIP Category Nine: Building Collaborative Relationships

- D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

**This Project was selected primarily based on the feedback from the college's most recent AQIP visit report.**

- E. List the organizational areas - -institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units -- most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

**This is primarily a project for Academics and Economic Development Team.**

- F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

**This project should primarily affect the organizational processes related to curriculum improvement and program outcome assessment.**

- G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

**This project is expected to take between four and six semesters from beginning to end. Much of this time is driven by the amount of curriculum changes that must take place and by the complexity and variation in program outcome assessment strategies in place.**

- H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

**The project will take place in three phases:**

- 1. The college, through a Task Force, will review the "Core Abilities" established in 1995.**
- 2. Academics will review existing curricula as to the inclusion of the "Core Abilities".**

**3. New strategies for the assessment of student achievement of the “Core Abilities” will be developed and implemented.**

- I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

**There will be several key indicators of success of the Action Project:**

- 1. The delineation of the college’s revised “Core Abilities”.**
- 2. Successful integration of the revised “Core Abilities” into 100% of the curriculum.**
- 3. Implementation of new strategies for the assessment of student demonstration of the “Core Abilities”-related competencies.**

- J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

**An institutional Task Force will be developed to provide primary institutional leadership of the project. An academic manager/dean will be assigned chairmanship of that Task Force.**

- K. Project Leader and contact person:

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