

## Executive Summary

**QEP Title: Compass: Navigating Excellence through Effective Communication**

**Institution Name: Sul Ross State University**

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Sul Ross State University (SRSU) initiated the broad-based institutional process of identifying possible QEP topics in the fall of 2015, which involved solicited input from all stakeholders and a review of institutional data and best practices. From this process, the need for students to understand how to communicate effectively through written, oral, and visual communication emerged as our focus.

SRSU's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) addresses the student communication need across all academic programs, academic colleges, and campuses. Based on the input from the Reaffirmation Committee, the objective of SRSU's QEP, ***Compass: Navigating Excellence through Effective Communication***, is achieved in one student learning outcome aligned with two program goals.

Successfully implementing **Compass** increases opportunities for SRSU students to demonstrate competency in written, oral, and visual communication, and will enhance the capacity of SRSU educators to teach communication skills through increased professional development opportunities. Accordingly, our goals with **Compass** include: enhancing student communication skills, and expanding our faculty's skills to teach oral, written, and visual communication. We believe these two goals combined will improve our students' ability to contribute to a learned society.

Our QEP is directed at junior and senior-level courses because Rio Grande College (RGC), our off-site instructional campus, enrolls only upper-level students. The following QEP-level student learning outcome (SLO) will be assessed in all SRSU's communication-infused courses: The student will create works that exhibit skill in prepared and purposeful communication (written, oral or visual).

SRSU will implement and monitor the QEP with the aid of Faculty Guides and Faculty Navigators teaching communication-infused Mapped Classes.

- Faculty Guides serve as mentors to faculty engaged in the development and instruction of Mapped Classes.
- Faculty Navigators are professors who redesign an existing course into a Mapped Class incorporating the QEP SLO.
- Mapped Classes will follow a syllabus template that clearly spells out expectations of the QEP and the use of the Cardinal Rubric to assess student work.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members should be encouraged by this QEP, as it aims to develop students in ways that can enhance their potential to contribute to a civil society as well as making them more marketable to potential employers. In this way, the name **Compass** is apt. We see this QEP as equipping students with the skills necessary to navigate toward a life of excellence.