UHD’s QEP Topic: Academic Achievement through Community Engagement (A+CE)

Thesis: Prepare students to think critically about community issues.

Criteria: Curricular, first two years for FTIC (first time in college) students

Definitions:

A. Critical Thinking (one of the learning outcomes of Texas Common Core)

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) defines critical thinking as creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

B. Community Engagement

The Carnegie Foundation defines community engagement as “collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.” Within the scope of this QEP, community engagement will also encompass both the identification and analysis of community issues.

Student Motivation

A. Become an ‘Engaged Scholar’ by taking four A+CE courses in the first two years, and maintaining an overall GPA of 2.5 with a maximum of one ‘C’ in the A+CE courses.
B. Get A+CE course designations on transcript.
C. Develop 21st century skills in critical thinking while engaging in community issues.