**Courses to Careers: Building Psychosocial Competency**

WCU’s *Courses to Careers* enhances the former “synthesis” QEP by building on the behavioral and experiential pieces of synthesis. *Courses to Careers* focuses on purposefully growing the whole person by building life skills, which relates specifically to 2020 Goal 2.1 by fostering personal growth and global and social awareness and 2020 Goal 2.2 by providing students with the skills to become active citizens. Furthermore, the data is alarming. During WCU’s 2012 participation in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), 48% of first-year students and 69% of seniors reported WCU only helped them cope with their non-academic responsibilities “some or very little” (Indiana University, 2012).

*Courses to Careers* will focus on four life skills: social responsibility, financial literacy, building positive interpersonal relationships, and improving self-awareness. By focusing on these four life skills, WCU students will:

1. Contribute to local, national, and global communities through service and social action
2. Identify personal characteristics that impact their ability to succeed during and after college
3. And, modify behaviors and values to adapt to an ever-changing society.

The successful implementation of*Courses to Careers* relies on a coordinated and

collaborative, university-wide effort. Implementation efforts can include:

1. Integration of the four life skills focus areas into first-year seminar courses
2. Development of Financial Aid workshop sessions
3. A pilot study to assess the integration of self-awareness concepts into the Health and Wellness curriculum
4. Coordination of service learning and social action activities into major courses
5. Requirement for major courses of study to build an experiential learning component into the curriculum
6. Development of a Co-Curricular Transcript

*Courses to Careers* is designed to prepare students for the transition from college to career life. The plan aims at increasing student success through increased employability and an improved ability to navigate life processes.