



Executive Summary for the Appalachian State University Quality Enhancement Plan

Appalachian State University's Quality Enhancement Plan focuses on climate literacy and equips students to shape a just and resilient future in the face of one of humanity's greatest challenges: anthropogenic climate change. The disruptive consequences of climate change are pervasive, and its solutions are cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral. The *Pathways to Resilience* QEP will develop and implement a transformational climate curriculum that prepares every App State graduate to contribute to positive climate actions in their professions and communities.

App State's mission is to shape "*students into globally minded, responsible members of society who engage with and actively contribute to their communities.*" Pathways to Resilience will advance our mission and student learning via developing and implementing: 1) new introductory, solutions-oriented "Sustainability and Climate Literacy" courses for General Education; 2) new upper-level, career-oriented "Climate in the Disciplines" courses within a majority of academic units; 3) a new Climate Studies minor; 4) opportunities for students to participate in climate-related scholarly research and creative activities; and 5) opportunities for student climate engagement via co-curricular programs (e.g., speakers, events, exhibits). Given the pervasive climate anxiety among youth, our co-curricular offerings will include programs to help students manage difficult climate emotions that could disrupt their academic success.

This QEP will support the development of a climate curriculum that goes beyond the causes and consequences of climate change and prioritizes student learning on climate solutions that grow students' capacity to help their future employers and communities respond to climate disruption in ways that support societal level resilience. Curriculum development activities will be supported through a variety of faculty development programs (e.g., workshops, institutes, teaching communities, small grants) held in partnership with App State's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for Student Success. QEP assessment will focus on the four Student Learning Outcomes from App State's General Education Program that are most relevant to climate literacy and climate response-ability:

- Global Self Awareness: Students will evaluate the effect of human agency on social, cultural, and natural environments.
- Systemic Drivers of Global Change: Students will evaluate systemic factors that produce local and global disparities and environmental problems in order to advocate for appropriate responses.
- Consequences of Global Change: Students will evaluate the effects of global change on local environments.
- Response-Ability: Students will evaluate the effects of social, economic, and environmental problems on communities and cultivate a capacity to actively respond to these challenges.

App State is committing significant resources to support this QEP, including operating funds and staff time. Additionally, QEP staff are building partnerships across campus to leverage support in the form of recurring state funds, programming, and human resources. Critical partners include Dean's offices from all colleges as well as the following campus units: Academic Affairs; Career Development; Student Affairs; Sustainability; General Education; and Institutional Research, Assessment & Planning. The latter two offices will support assessment summits for QEP student learning outcomes.

Pathways to Resilience prepares students to be climate-capable workers and leaders in an employment landscape that is being reshaped by climate change, and will establish App State as a national leader in educating for climate resilience and climate equity in an age of global change.

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