I. **Executive Summary:** The Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), **STudent Engagement ProgramS (STEPS)**, will enable the College to strengthen and expand ABAC’s commitment to engaged learning too become part of the fabric of the College. STEPS will provide bachelor’s degree seeking students with the opportunity to pursue engaged learning opportunities in their junior and senior years by linking the College’s bachelor’s degree programs to a wider world in three areas: internships, mentored research, and study abroad.

STEPS will enhance student learning and the value of an ABAC education by strengthening and expanding opportunities for students to intern, conduct research, and study abroad. In order for STEPS to have this impact at ABAC, the College will provide institutional resources, tools, and support to these areas of engaged learning by:

- Creating and maintaining administrative and funding structures,
- Developing and improving definitions, guidelines, and procedures for delivering these opportunities,
- Establishing and sustaining strategic methods for informing faculty and students about them,
- Preparing and incentivizing faculty and students for the engaged learning opportunities to expand upon them, and
- Integrating a systematic approach for faculty and students to share their experiences.

Additionally, ABAC will ensure that these experiences have a high-level of academic rigor by:

- Evaluating the internships, mentored research, and study abroad experiences and
- Assessing student learning within these areas.

STEPS will not only enrich the learning environment at the College but will also help students develop knowledge, skills, and abilities critical to career and post-graduate success. As a result of participating in STEPS, students will be able to:

- Apply skills, abilities, theories, or methodologies gained in one situation to new situations to solve problems or explore issues.
• Demonstrate use of conventions appropriate to a specific discipline and/or writing task(s), including organization, content, presentation, and stylistic choices.
• Compare academic knowledge to life experiences to infer similarities and differences and acknowledge perspectives other than their own.