STEPS: STudent Engagement ProgramS:
A Summary of ABAC’s Quality Enhancement Plan April 21, 2016
ABAC Foundation Board of Trustees

Recap of QEP Work:
What is a QEP?

- ABAC’s regional accrediting body, SACSCOC, requires that each institution submit a 5 year Quality Enhancement Plan.
- The plan seeks to improve student learning or student learning environment over a five-year period.
- The QEP should support the College in accomplishing the mission and institutional goals.
- Faculty, staff, students and administrators have been involved in the development of ABAC’s QEP topic since April, 2015.
- ABAC’s QEP topic is Engaged Learning through Internships, Mentored Research and Study Abroad and is titled STEPS: Student Engagement ProgramS. The topic relates directly to ABAC’s Strategic Plan.
- **Operational Definitions (developed from work of the Faculty Literature Review Committee):**
  - **Engaged learning:**
    - The acquiring of knowledge and abilities across the curriculum and co-curriculum by making connections among ideas and experiences and by synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond the campus.
  - **Internships:**
    - In-classroom and out-of-classroom activities that expand students’ disciplinary knowledge and skills while also challenging their ability to apply learning in authentic settings as they contend with real-world experiences.
  - **Mentored research:**
    - An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student under the guidance of a content expert that makes an intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.
  - **Study abroad:**
    - In-classroom and out-of-classroom activities that complete part of a student’s degree program through a credit-bearing education-abroad experience.
- The QEP Student Learning Outcomes were developed by using key words from ABAC’s current strategic plan, Destination ABAC Strategic Initiative 3.2. *Each school shall develop and implement co-curricular programs to engage students through teaching, mentoring, coaching and the use of internships and coop programs that enhance learning, develop problem solving skills, encourage creativity and innovation, develop social skills, promote work ethic and develop verbal and written communication skills.*
- Implementation of QEP is Fall 2016