

What Faculty, Staff, and Students Should Know

- **USC Connect** includes two key components:
 - Increased student engagement in beyond the classroom experiences (e.g., research, community engagement, leadership, international experiences, internships)
 - Increased support for students to develop deep understandings of how their experiences within and beyond the classroom connect to one another and inform their learning
- **USC Connect** builds on existing structures and innovations in progress at USC:
 - Beyond the Classroom Experiences offered through academic programs (e.g., internships, service learning courses) and university offices (e.g., Community Engagement, Undergraduate Research, Study Abroad, Career Services)
 - Technology improvements to more efficiently share information on existing beyond the classroom experiences
 - Center for Teaching Excellence and Division of Student Affairs for programs on integrative learning and beyond the classroom experiences for faculty and staff
 - Orientation, First Year Reading Experience, and University 101 as vehicles for introducing students to USC Connect
 - Integrative Courses in the Carolina Core and culminating experiences in programs (e.g., presentations, portfolios, research projects, seminars) that help students integrate learning
- **USC Connect** is unique in its focus on integrative learning at a comprehensive, research university (such initiatives are more typical at small liberal arts colleges)
- **USC Connect** is a 5-year initiative that will be supported through the Provost's Office with strong ties to the Division of Student Affairs
- **USC Connect** was developed and will be implemented by faculty, staff, and students from Columbia, Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union campuses over the next 5 years
- **USC Connect** grew from collaborative work on the Carolina Core (Gen Ed revision), Focus Carolina, and program development (academic departments and the Division of Student Affairs)
- **USC Connect** is USC's required Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS Accreditation
- A campaign to highlight students already learning from their beyond the classroom experiences is underway—look for posters on all campuses and see the USC Times!

For further information: <http://www.sc.edu/provost/qep/> or
contact Irma Van Scoy (ivanscoy@mailbox.sc.edu)