

# **Educational Developers Caucus (EDC) GRANTS Final Report**

**Title of Project:** Exploring the implementation of the Quality Assurance Framework in Ontario Universities

**Principal Investigator:**

Lori Goff, McMaster University

**Overview of the project:**

Senior administrators from 7 universities were invited to participate in a phenomenographic study to better understand the variety of ways in which quality is conceptualized and defined and how they are responding to the Quality Assurance Framework with respect to the supports that they are now offering or may offer in the future to support the implementation of the QAF.

**Educational findings/outcomes**

Drawing upon phenomenographic traditions, a qualitative investigation was conducted to better understand various conceptions of quality held by university administrators and to appreciate ways in which they implemented the QAF. Three main approaches to quality assurance were identified: (a) Defending Quality, characterized by conceptions of quality as exceptional, which focuses on administrative accountability and uses a hands-off strategy to defend traditional notions of quality inputs and resources; (b) Demonstrating Quality, characterized by conceptions of quality as fitness for purpose and value for money, which focuses on accountability to students and uses centralized engaged strategies to demonstrate how programs meet current priorities and intended outcomes; and (c) Enhancing Quality, characterized by conceptions of quality as transformation, which focuses on reflection and learning experience and uses engaged strategies to find new ways of improving learning and teaching. The development of a campus culture that values the institution's function in student learning and quality teaching would benefit from Enhancing Quality approaches to quality assurance..

**Budget:** \$2100 for Interview transcription costs. A cheque for \$2100 was issued and then returned to EDC via the STLHE office.

**Expenses:** \$501.46 for Interview transcription costs. Receipts were submitted to STLHE office for reimbursement. Reimbursement received.

**Conference Presentations and/or publications based on the project:**

Publication is in preparation for submission.

Abstract submitted for presentation at STLHE.