SAVE THE DATE: QEP Kickoff – Aug. 15
Please mark your calendars for the QEP Kickoff for the 2017-2018 Academic Year. This will be a drop-in event (similar to last year’s) with lunch provided. Between 10 am and 1 pm in the PDR, table hosts will be available to chat about topics related to Research that Reaches Out. This is an excellent way to learn about successful ways to integrate service and research, network with colleagues and community partners, feel invigorated by new ideas, and even pick up some new swag. Faculty who teach Macon traditional undergrads should plan to attend. More details will come soon in a separate advertisement. We hope to see you there August 15th!

The new faces of QEP: A summer of change

Dr. Kathryn Kloepper, Director
Kathy is an Associate Professor of Chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and the outgoing director of the Great Books program. She officially started as Director on July 1. Kathy received the Innovations in Teaching Award in 2014 and was recently named the SGA Faculty Member of the Year. Since joining the faculty in 2009, she has worked with sixteen undergraduates on analytical chemistry research projects. Recent scholarly work includes the characterization of biosurfactants; she also develops and evaluates strategies for increasing student participation and learning in the chemistry classroom.

Hannah Vann, Associate Director
Hannah, Mercer’s current Coordinator of Community Engagement, joined the QEP office on August 1st as the new Associate Director. Hannah is a 2010 graduate of the College of Liberal Arts, a Fulbright Scholar, and a recipient of the 2010 Mercer University Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. Since joining the staff in 2014, she founded the MerServe student service board, increased student volunteerism by 91%, and expanded Mercer’s tutoring outreach by 171%.

A new Grand Challenge: Personal Well-Being
The Grand Challenge for the 2017-2018 Academic Year is Personal Well-Being. There will be many opportunities throughout the year to connect your students and coursework to the Grand Challenge. Don’t forget that we have a programming calendar as well as a list of resources on the Tarver website. If you have anything that you’d like to add to our programming calendar pertaining to the Grand Challenge, please contact Hannah. More updates on the Grand Challenge will appear in the August newsletter later this month.

Visionary Student Panel – Oct 10 & 11
The 3rd annual Visionary Student Panel will take place Oct. 10 & 11 at 6 pm each night (location TBD). The VSP challenges students to share their ideas on Personal Well-Being in a public forum. We hope that faculty will consider incentivizing attendance. We will have ID swipe devices at the doors and are happy to provide you with a list of your student attendees.

We’re giving away money!
Just kidding. But we are funding projects that align with the Research that Reaches Out student learning outcomes. If you’re interested in applying for funding to help support your projects, the first deadline to apply is September 1. You can find the application here.