2012 QEP Summer Reading Circles: During the Summer of 2012, Valencia established nine reading circles on multiple campuses to encourage conversations about student learning and the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Road Trip Nation Reading Circles:

1. East Campus leaders Aida Diaz & Anna Saintil: June, 26; July 10; & July 17.
2. Lake Nona leaders Jonathan Hernandez & Sonya Joseph: June 19; June 26; & July 3.
3. Osceola Campus leader Michael Robbins: June 14; June 21; & June 28.
4. West Campus leaders Rhonda Atkinson & Charles Davis: July 5; July 12; & July 19.

Common themes to their conversations:

- Students need more guidance about what to expect in/from college
- Students need a workshop/seminar series that focuses on people and their careers
- Parents don’t know how to encourage their students toward college careers
- Students don’t know what they need to be asking about college
- Students need to be encouraged to “seek out” information
- AA Advisors need to help students focus on a specific major to transfer

Bridges Out of Poverty Reading Circles:

1. East Campus leaders Rachel Allen & Tina Crane: July 9; July 23; & July 30
2. West Campus leaders Vikas Sudesh & Rhonda Oehlrich: July 11; July 18; & July 25
3. Winter Park leaders John Niss & Linda Firmani: July 17 & July 24

Common themes to their conversations:

- To foster student success, we need to understand students’ ‘hidden rules’ and teach them rules that will make them successful at school, at work, and in the community
- Under-resourced students may lack some of the basic college success skills (e.g., time management skills; study skills; reading skills, etc.)
• Creating a non-judgmental atmosphere is a step toward helping under-resourced students learn
• Some faculty and staff should go through the student process from exploring to applying to registering in order to get a feel for how students experience the front door of the college
• The first 15 minutes of contact with Valencia will significantly influence student and parent opinion toward Valencia
• To increase college success, mentorships would benefit students who are under-resourced

Internationalization Reading Circles:

1. East Campus leaders Marcelle Cohen & Lindi Kourtellis: June 28; July 12; & July 19
2. West Campus leader Daniela Johnson: July 9; July 16; & July 23

Common themes to their conversations:
• Start with perspective and culture in the classroom
• We need to focus on how to create the same learning experience for the students who go abroad and the students who will never leave the city of Orlando
• Diversify classrooms to enhance learning experience
• Students are growing up in a world with too much information and too many choices
• Increase overall study abroad opportunities
• Students should understand their place in the world / their connection to the world
• Education can lead to a new/better way of living