6.2.b Continuous Improvement

Since the last NCATE visit in 2005, the Education Department at WBC has experienced a turnover of personnel. In 2008 Dr. Brad Baine assumed the role of Chair of the Education Department. An alumnus of WBC and the WTEP, Dr. Baine received his PhD in Pedagogy at the University of Arkansas. He taught middle level science in the Jonesboro School District and was an Algebra I teacher at the alternative school in Jonesboro School District. Dr. Baine is frequently a WTEP representative to meetings involving deans of education from other institutions across Arkansas and, in doing so, stays abreast of the current changes affecting higher education. He is currently serving a three year term as representative of private institutions to the Arkansas Professional Licensure Standards Boards which develops recommendations for the Arkansas Board of Education. He is also a member of the Greene County Tech School District Board of Education.

Mrs. Charlotte Wheeless joined the Williams Teacher Education Program in 2009. She, too, is an alumnus of Williams Baptist College and the WTEP. She received her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Instructional Technology from Grand Canyon University. She taught fifth and sixth grade science in the Lawrence County School District for 15 years, during which time she achieved National Board Certification and was a Japan Fulbright Teacher Participant. Each summer Mrs. Wheeless develops and presents in-service training for area teachers at the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative, with the presentations focused on technology.

Another new instructor in the education program is Ms. Misty Colvey, who is the athletic trainer and an adjunct instructor, teaching specifically courses required for Health and Physical Education majors. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training and is continuing graduate studies at Arkansas State University.

In addition, in 2012 Dr. Jerol Swaim retired as president of Williams and Dr. Tom Jones was selected as the sixth president of Williams Baptist College.

With regards to additions to technology since NCATE’s last visit in 2005, the WTEP has procured two document cameras and an additional SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard to complement the SMART Board already in place. The Department of Education has purchased a laptop, an iPad2, and several Flip cams. These are used to demonstrate the importance of technology in today’s world of education. Early childhood and middle level majors are required to successfully complete ED 4332 Educational Technology, and as of Fall 2011 all education students receive one half semester of training for integrating technology into classroom teaching. A number of cooperating teachers have commented that they have gained knowledge from our student interns about integrating various technologies in the classroom; consequently, technology has been one of the most notable areas of continuous improvement.

With Common Core State Standards being adopted by the majority of states, including Arkansas, Williams Baptist College has secured two Algebra I Institute grants through the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. The grants have totaled $62,959 and $ 53,320 and are used to
prepare future and current algebra I teachers for the rigors of Common Core State Standards. The WBC Education Department Chair, Dr. Brad Baine, serves as the project director.